

Anthu Ovutika

Kuchokera ku *Les Miserables*, nkhani
yolembedwa ndi Victor Hugo

Womasulira m'Chichewa: LULA PENSULO

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Tsiku lina chakumadzulo mu October 1815, mwina kuta-ngotsala ola limodzi kuti dzuwa lolowe, bambo wina wandeve zazitali yemwe anavala zovala zakutha, analowa m'tauni ya Digne¹. Bamboyu ankangooneka ngati wafu-lulidwa pansu ndipo anali atavala zovala zong'ambika-ng'ambika. N'kutheka kuti anali ndi zaka za m'ma 50. Ti-kanena za msinkhu wake, sikuti anali wamtali kwambiri, komanso sikuti anali wamfupi. Iye anali ndi mapewa okhala ngati hang'ala ndipo thupi lake linkasonyezeratu kuti ndi munthu wadzitho. Anavala chisoti chachikopa chomwe chinkaphimba nkhope yake yothimbirira ndi ma-vuto. Ngakhale kunja kunkazizira, nkhope yake inali ita-nona ndi thukuta chifukwa choyenda mtunda wautali. Mu-nthuyu anavala malaya okhuthala ndipo pofuna kuti azipi-tidwa mphepo, sanamange mabatani moti chidyali chonse, chomwe chinali tchire lokhalokha, chinali chili pamtunda. Kumbuyo kwake kunali chikwama chachikulu ndipo m'dzanja lake munali ndodo.

Anthu am'tauniyi, omwe n'kutheka kuti kanali ko-yamba kumuona, ankangomuyang'ana mwachidwi pame-ne ankaima pamalo ena kuti amwe madzi. Nawonso ana anamulondola ngati ntchentche pamene ankadutsa mumsika. Kumenekonso anaima pamalo ena kuti amwenso madzi. Kenako anapitiriza ulendo wake n'kudutsa pakati pa nyumba zikuluzikulu ndipo anakatulukira kunyumba

yogona alendo. Atafika kumeneko, analowa kudzera kumene ankaphikira zakudya. Mwini malowo, yemwenso anali khukhi, anali atatanganidwa ndi kaphika chakudya cha alendo omwe ankaseka m'chipinda chotsatira.

“Tikuthandizeni Monsieur?²”

“Ndikufuna chakudya komanso malo ogona,” anatero mlendoyo.

“Mwafika malo oyenerera bwana wanga,” anatero mwini malo ogona alendoyo akutembenukira mlendoyo. Koma atangoona mmene ankaonekera, anayamba kukaikira zoti angakhale ndi ndalama moti anawonjezera kuti: “Tikhoza kukuthandizani ngati muli ndi ndalama zokwanira kulipira zimene mukufunazo.”

“Musade nkhawa, ndalama zilipo,” anayankha mlendoyo akutulutsa waleti kuchokera m'jekete yake.

“Ngati zili choncho ndiye takulandirani,” anatero mwini malo ogona alendoyo atamva yankholo.

Mlendoyo anamwetulira akuusa moyo ndipo anakhala panso n'kumaothera moto. Kenako anatanganidwa ndi kudziwamba pamotowo moti sanaone pamene kamnyamata kankatuluka ndi liwiro, katanyamula kakalata komwe mwini malo ogona alendoyo analemba. Sanaone nso pamene kamnyamatako kankabwererako n'kukano-ng'oneza munthu anamutumayo kukhutu.

“Kodi patenga nthawi yaitali bwanji kuti chakudiyachi chipse?” anafunsa mlendo uja.

“Pepani, Monsieur,” anatero mwini malo ogona alendo uja, “Sizitheka kuti mugone kuno chifukwa zipinda zonse zatengedwa.”

“Musadandaule ndi zimenezo. Ine sindilira zambiri, ndikhoza kugona ngakhale m'khola. Ngati n'zotheka mukhoza kundipatsa malo alionse oti ndingopeza mpumulo basi. Ndikangomaliza kudya . . .”

“Sizingathekenso kuti mudye kuno,” anamudula mawu mwini malo ogona alendo uja. “Tilibenso zakudya zokwanira.”

“Mulibe zakudya zokwanira? Nanga zakudya zamбирimbiri mukuphikazo?”

Mwini malo ogonayo sanayankhe funsoli koma anangomuyandikira n’kumunong’oneza ndi mawu oluma kwambiri.

“Bambo, kapezeni kwina kogona. Ineyo ndimaku-dziwani bwinobwino ndipo simungandipusitse. Dzina lanu ndi Jean Valjean ndipo mwangotuluka kumene kundende. Ndikunama kapena? Sindingayerekeze kupereka chakudya komanso malo anga ogona kwa munthu woipa ngati inu.”

Atangomva mawu amenewo, mlendoyo anaimirira n’kutenga chikwama komanso ndodo yake ndipo anatuluka panja. Mdimu unali utagwa tsopano ndipo bamboyo anangoima akukhala ngati mwana wosochera. Panjapo pankamba mphepo yozizira kwambiri yomwe inkachokera kumapiri omwe anali chakum’mawa. Mlendoyo anayamba kumwazamwaza maso akuoneka kuti akusowa mtenko wogwira. Iye sankadziwa kuti agona kuti. Kenako ananyamuka n’kupita kumalo enanso ogona alendo, koma kumenekonso zinamuvuta. Ndiyeno anayamba kugogoda nyumba ndi nyumba kuti mwina pangapezeke munthu womuchitira chifundo. Koma zikuoneka kuti nkhanu ya kutuluka kwake m’ndende inali itafala kwambiri, moti palibe amene analimba mtima kumupatsa malo ogona. Ataona kuti palibe angamuthandize, anaganiza zogona m’munda wina, koma kumenekonso anathamangitsidwa-ko ndi galu. Kenako, anangozindikira watulukira patchalitchi china. Iye anayang’ana tchalitchicho kwa kanthawi atakongwa komanso ali ndi njala kwambiri. Chifukwa cha

kutopa, anaganiza zogona pabenchi yomwe inali pakhomo lolowera m'tchalitchicho.

Patangotha mphindi zingapo, mayi wina wachikulire anatuluka m'tchalitchi muja n'kumuona atagona pabenchi paja.

“Kodi bambo mukutani pamenepo?” anafunsa mayiyo.

“Zoonza simukuona kuti ndikugona?” anayankha mokwiya bamboyo.

“Mukugona pamtetete ngati pamenepo mmene kumaja kukuziziriramu?”

“Ndakhala ndikugona pathabwa kwa zaka 19. Ndiye kugona pabenchi n'chiyaninso! Mavuto ndinafika pongowazolowera.”

“Bwanji osapita kukagona kumalo ofikira alendo?”

“Ndiliba ndalama zoti ndikawapatse,” ananama bamboyo.

Mayi wachikulire uja anatsegula kawaleti kake n'kutulutsa timakobidi tingapo n'kumupatsa. Kenako anati: “Kodi munayesa kupempha malo ogona kwa anthu am'tauni muno?”

“Ndagogoda khomo lililonse.”

“Owo-o, koma nanga bwanji nyumba iyo?” anatero mayiyo akuloza nyumba yaing'ono yomwe inali pafupi ndi chinyumba chachikulu kwambiri cha bishopu wachalitchi chija.

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Bishopu wa ku Digne anali munthu wachifundo kwambiri. Zaka zambiri zapitazo, bishopu wachikulireyu anasamuka m'chinyumba chake chaulemerero n'kuchipereka m'manja mwa chipatala cha tauniyi kuti azichigwiritsa ntchito

ngati chipatala. Bishopuyu ankakhala moyo wosalira zam-biri limodzi ndi mlongo wake, Mademoiselle Baptistine,³ komanso wantchito wawo, Madame Magloire⁴. Chifukwa cha mtima wake wodzichepetsawu, anthu am'tauni ya Digne ankamukonda kwambiri. Zikuonekanso kuti bishopuyu ankakhulupirira munthu aliyense moti ngakhale chitseko cha nyumba yake sichinkakhomedwa. Ankachita zimenezi kuti aliyense amene akufuna kupeza thandizo kwa iye azimufikira mosavuta.

Madzulo umenewo, Mme⁵ Magloire ankacheza ndi Mlle⁶ Baptistine podikirira kuti adye chakudya.

“Anthu akunena kuti m'tauni muno mwabwera munthu wina wachilendo,” anatero Mme Magloire. “Apolisi akuti ndi woopsa kwambiri moti akuchenjeza anthu kuti atseke mawindo komanso zitseko za nyumba zawo kuti chigawengacho chisawachite chipongwe.”

“Achimwene,” anatero Mlle Baptistine akutembenukira bishopu uja, yemwe anakhala pambali pa moto. “Mwamva zimene Mme Magloire akunena?”

“Zoti m'tauni muno mwabwera munthu woopsa?” anatero bishopuyo akumwetulira ngati mwana.

“Komatu chenjezo limeneli ndi lofunika kulilabidira,” anatero Mme Magloire. “Anthu akuti munthuyo wavalala nsanza ndipo nkhope yake ikusonyezzeratu kuti ndi wouma mtima kwambiri. Anthu sakukaikira kuti akhoza kuchita chinachake choopsa usiku uno. Komanso achemwali anuwa akuona kuti nyumba yathuyi ndi yosatetezeka. Ngati mungakonde, ndikhoza kutuma munthu kuti akagule loko woti tidzaikie pachitsekochi . . .”

Bishopu uja asanayankhe, anamva kugogoda.

“Lowani,” anatero bishopuyo.

Chitseko chija chinatsegulidwa ndipo mlendoyo analowa. Mme Magloire atangoona mlendoyo, anayamba

kuchita mantha kwambiri. Nawonso Mlle Baptistine anadzuka ngati alumidwa ndi mphembedzu m'matako. Koma bishopu uja ankangoyang'ana mlendoyo modekha kwambiri.

“Dzina langa ndi Jean Valjean,⁷” anatero mlendoyo asanafunsidwe. “Ndakhala ndili m'ndende kwa zaka 19 ndipo ndatuluka masiku anayi apitawo. Tsiku lonse landithera ndikuyenda, koma palibe aliyense m'tauni muno amene wandipatsa chakudya kapena malo ogona. Ndiyeno chaposachedwapa mayi wina anandiona ndikugona patchalitchipo ndipo anandiuza kuti ndibwere kuno. Kodi malo ano ndi ogona alendo? Ndalama zoti ndikupatseni ndili nazo. Kodi mungandilole kuti ndigone nawo kuno?”

“Mme Magloire,” anatero bishopu uja, “kodi mungawonjezere mbale ina ya chakudya cha alendowa?”

Kenako Jean Valjean anayandikira bishopu uja n'kumuuzza kuti: “Mwina simukumvetsa zimene ndikutanthauza. Munthune ndinakhala kundende kwa zaka 5 chifukwa kuba. Ndili kundendeko ndinawonjezeredwanso zaka zina 14 chifukwa chothawa kundende maulendo 4. Ndine munthu woopsa kwambiri.”

“Mme Magloire,” anateronso bishopu uja akuyang'ana Mme Magloire, “muikenso mabedishiti oyera bwino m'chipinda chofikira alendo.”

Mme Magloire anali wantchito womvera kwambiri moti ananyamuka n'kukachita zonse zomwe anauzidwa popanda kuwiringula.

Kenako bishopu uja anatembenukira Jean Valjean. “Khalani pamwandopaa kuti muziothera moto, Monsieur. Chakudya chibwera patebulo posachedwapa.”

Nkhope ya Jean Valjean, yomwe poyamba inkawoneka yoopsa kwambiri, inafeweratu. “Koma mukunenadi zoona?” anafunsa asakukhulupirira. “Zoonadi mwandilola

kuti ndigone kuno? Munthune ndi chigawenga chouma mtima, koma mwanditchula kuti ‘Monsieur.’ Zimene mwachitazi zandidabwitsa kwambiri. Komatu sindinaku-dziweni, dzina lanu ndi ndani? Kodi ndinu amene muma-yang’anira malo ogona alendowa?”

“Ndine wansembe,” anatero bishopu uja. “ndipo nyumbayi ndi imene ndimakhala.”

“Wansembe?” anafunsa Jean Valjean akukhala pa-nsi. “Ndiye kuti sindikufunikiranso kulipira eti?”

“Ayi ndithu. Ndalama zimenezo mukhoza kuzi-gwiritsa ntchito zina,” anayankha wansembe uja.

Pamene ankadya chakudya, Mlle Baptistine anaya-ng’ana Jean Valjean mwaulemu pamene bishopuyo anka-yankhula zokhudza anthu omwe ankapanga tchizi. Val-jean anali ndi njala kwambiri moti ankadya asakumvetsera zonena za munthu aliyense. Koma atayamba kukhuta, maganizo ake anakhazikika moti anayamba kuyang’a-nayang’ana zinthu zomwe zinali m’nyumbamo.

“Zikuoneka kuti ino si nyumba ya munthu wochita bwino,” anatero mumtima mwake Valjean. “Anthu omwe amagona m’malo ofikira alendo amadya bwino kwambiri kuposa zimene tikudyazi.” Koma kenako anayang’ana pa-tebulo n’kuona zoikapo makandulo ziwiri, mipeni koma-nso mafoloko. Zinthuzi zinali zapamwamba kwambiri ndipo zinali zopangidwa ndi siliva.

Atamaliza kudya, bishopu uja anatsanzika mche-mwali wake uja n’kutenga zoikapo kandulo zija. Chimo-dzi anachipereka kwa Valjean n’kunena kuti, “Monsieur, tiyeni ndikakuonetseni chipinda choti mugone.”

Valjean anaimirira n’kumatsatira bishopuyo ndipo anayamba kukwera masitepe opita munsanjika yam’mwa-mba. Pamene ankadutsa pachipinda cha bishopuyo, Val-jean anaona Mme Magloire akuika mafoloko komanso

mipeni yapamwamba ija m'kabati yomwe inali pafupi ndi bedi.

Kenako bishopuyo anaonetsa Valjean chipinda choti agone.

“Chipinda chanu ndi chimenechi. Tikufunirani usiku wabwino,” anatero bishopuyo. “Mawa mukadzuka, tikufuna kuti musananyamuke mudzalawe mkaka woko-ma womwe timakama ng'ombe zathu.”

Valjean anali atatheratu moti atangodziponya pamwamba pa mabedishiti aja asanavule kalikonse, ndipo anagona tulo tofa nato. Koma sanagone kwa nthawi yai-tali. Anadzidzimuka pamene belu la kutchalitchi kuja linkalira ndipo tsopano nthawi inali 2 koloko usiku. Koma sikuti iye anadzuka chifukwa cha kulira kwa belulo. Anadzidzimuka chifukwa bedi lomwe anagoneralo linali la-wofuwofu kwambiri. Iye anakhala osagona pamalo abwi-no ngati amenewa kwa zaka 20, moti thupi lake linka-dabwa kwambiri kugona malo abwino choncho. Chifukwa choti tulo tinkamuvuta, Valjean anayamba kuyang'ana mundima n'kumaganizira zinthu zopanda chilungamo zomwe zinachitika pamoyo wake.

Mtima wake unkamupweteka kwambiri akaganizira zimenezi. Mu 1795, Valjean anachotsedwa ntchito. Iye ankagwira ntchito yodula mitengo ndipo pa nthawiyo n'kutinso akusamalira mlongo wake wamasiye yemwe anali ndi ana 7. Ndiye tsiku lina pamene ankachokera kuntchito alibe kalikonse, anaba buledi ndipo mwatsoka anagwidwa ndi apolisi n'kutsekeredwa m'ndende. Pambu-yo pa zaka zambiri atamangidwa, tsopano anali mfulu. Komabe ankapsa mtima akaganizira zaka zomwe anataya kundendeko. Ankaona kuti chinachitikachi si chilungamo moti ankafuna kubwezera. Ndiyeno atakumbukira ziwiya anaona patebulo zija, maganizo oipa anamubwerera.

Posakhalitsa anadzuka n'kukhala tsonga ndipo mwapang'onopang'ono anaimirira. Kenako anayamba kuyenda mosamala kwambiri n'kumalowera kumene kunali zenera. Usikuwo sikunali mdima wandiweyani chifukwa mwezi unkawala. Mwa apa ndi apo, mweziwo unkabisika ndi mitambo. Valjean anayamba kuyang'ana munda wamaluwa womwe unali panjapo, ndipo anazindikira kuti kuthawa sikumuvuta. Kenako anatola chitsulo chinachake chachifupi chomwe chinali chosongoka kutsogolo. Anavula nsapato zake n'kuziika m'chikwama, ndipo anatenga chitsulo chija n'kuyamba kuyenda monyang'ama akulowera kuchipinda kwa bishopu uja. Kumeneko anapeza chitseko chili chosatseka.

Valjean anaima kaye n'kumvetsera. Koma palibe chomwe anamva. Kenako anakankha chitseko chija mosamala n'kulowa m'chipindamo ngati mphaka. Koma atangofika pafupi ndi bedi la bishopu uja, mwezi unaonekera kuchokera m'mitambo ndipo m'chipindamo munawala. Valjean anayang'ana nkhope ya bishopuyo yomwe inkaoneka yodekha komanso yosasungira munthu zifukwa. Pamoyo wake wonse, Valjean anali asanaonepo munthu wankhope yamtendere komanso yachifundo ngati ime-neyo.

Kenako anatembenuka n'kupita pakabati ija. Atangotsegula kabatiyo anaona beseni lasiliva. Nthawi yomweyo ananyamula besenilo mosamala n'kutuluka m'chipindacho ndipo anakalowanso kuchipinda chomwe anauzidwa kuti agone chija. Kumeneko anatola ndodo komanso chikwama chake n'kutulukira pawindo. Atafika panja anakhuthula zomwe zinali m'beseni lija n'kuziika m'chikwama ndipo besenilo analiponyera pansi. Posakhalitsa anakwera mpanda n'kuthawira m'tchire.

Kutangocha m'mawa, pamene bishopu uja ankaye-

ndera maluwa ake, Mme Magloire anabwera chothamanga.

“Monseigneur⁸, kodi mukudziwa kumene kuli beseni lasiliva lija?”

“Inde,” anatero bishopuyo. “Ndalipeza m’munda wamaluwawu.”

“Nanga zimene zinali m’menemo zapita kuti?” anadandaula Mme Magloire.

“O-o, kodi mukufuna zimenezo? Ponena za zinthu zimenezo ndiye sindikudziwa kuti zapita kuti.”

“Mulungu amulange munthu amene uja!” anakuwa motero Mme Magloire. “Munthu anabwera dzulo uja watibwera katundu wathu!”

Bishopuyo, yemwe anali akuyang’ana maluwa ena omwe anawonongedwa ndi beseni lasiliva lija, anatembenuka n’kuyang’ana Mme Magloire ndipo ananena chapansipansi kuti, “Ndikuganiza kuti ndinalakwitsa ndine posunga zinthu zasiliva zija kwa nthawi yaitali. Zinthu zimene zija ndi za anthu osauka. Ndikanadziwa bwenzi nditazipereka kwa osauka kalekale.”

Kenako m’mawa womwewo, pamene bishopuyo ndi mchemwali wake uja ankadya kadzutsa, anamva kugogoda pakhomo. Posakhalitsa anthu 4 analowa m’nyumbamo. Atatu anali apolisi ndipo winayo anali Jean Valjean.

“Monseigneur . . .” anatero amene ankatsogolera apolisiwo.

Atangomva mawu amenewo, Valjean anadabwa kwambiri. “Monseigneur?” anabwereza zimene wapolisi uja ananena. “Inetu ndimayesa ndi wansembe chabe.”

“Takhala chete iwe,” anatero wapolisi uja. “Amenyu ndi bishopu wa ku Digne.”

Bishopuyo anayamba kumumwetulira ataona Jean

Valjean.

“Ndasangalala kukuonanso m’bale wanga,” anatero bishopuyo. “Koma nanga bwanji sunatenge zoikapo makandulo zija? Zimene zijansotu ndinakupatsa, kapena unangoziwala? Nazonso ndi zopangidwa ndi siliva ngati mafoloko komanso mipeni ndinakupatsa ija ndipo utati uzigulitse ukhoza kupeza 200 francs.”

Jean Valjean sanakhulupirire kumva zimene bishopuyo ankanena moti anangoti kukamwa yasa-a.

“Monseigneur,” anatero mkulu wa apolisi uja, “kodi mukutanthauza kuti munthuyu amatiuza zoonza? Tinapeza katundu uyu m’chikwama chake ndipo . . .”

“Ndipo anakuuzani,” bishopu uja anamalizitsa chiganizo cha wapolisiyo, “kuti wansembe wina wachikulire ndi amene wamupatsa, si choncho? Inde, amanena zoonza.”

“Ndiye mukufuna kutiuzza kuti munthuyu si wakuba?” anafunsa wapolisi uja akudabwa kwambiri ngati mmenenso Valjean ankadabwira.

“Ayi ndithu, moti mukhoza kumusiya azipita.”

Apolisi aja anamusiyadi ndipo Valjean anayamba kusuntha mwamantha asakudziwa choti achite. Kenako ananena chapansipansi kuti, “Kodi mwandisiyadi kuti ndi zipita?”

“Inde m’bale wanga,” anatero bishopu uja. “Koma ulendo uno, usaiwale kutenganso zoikapo makandulo zija.”

Bishopuyo anathamangira m’nyumba n’kukatenga zoikapo makandulo n’kumupatsa Valjean.

“Tsopano ukhoza kupita mumtendere m’bale wanga,” anatero bishopuyo mwaubwenzi kwambiri.

Posakhalitza apolisi aja ananyamuka n’kumapita, koma Valjean sanasunthe. Iye anali atasokonezeka kothe-ratu. Kenako bishopuyo anamuyandikira n’kumuuzza cha-

pansipansi kuti, “Osaiwalatu kuti wandilonjeza zoti ukagwiritsa ntchito ndalama zomwe ukapeze ukagulitsa zinthuzi kuti ukhale munthu wabwino komanso woona mtima.”

Valjean, sanakumbukire akulonjeza bishopuyo zimenezo, choncho anangokhala chete.

“Jean Valjean,” anapitiriza motero bishopuyo, “ndagula moyo wako kuchokera kwa Mdyerekezi, ndipo ndaupereka m’manja mwa Mulungu.”

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Jean Valjean anachoka chothamanga kunyumba kwa bishopuyo. Iye ankangothamanga ngati wamisala moti sana-zindikire kuti akungozungulira pamodzimidzi. Mtima wake unkamuwawa m’njira yachilendo, koma sankadziwa kuti n’chifukwa chiyani ankamva choncho. Kenako, pamene dzuwa linkalowa, anakhala pansi atatoperatu ndipo ankayang’ana minda yomwe inali chapatali, pafupi ndi phiri. Iye anayamba kulakalaka atangobwereranso kundende. Valjean ankaona kuti anthu anamuchitira zinthu zopanda chilungamo kwambiri moti mtima ukayamba kumuwawa chifukwa cha zimenezi, ankamvako bwino akaganizira zoti tsiku lina nayenso adzawakhaulitsa. Koma tsopano, patatha zaka 20, munthu wosamudziwa anali atamusonyeza chifundo, ndipo sankadziwa kuti amve bwanji mumtima mwake.

Kenako mwadzidzidzi, anangomva munthu akuiimba. Anali mnyamata wa zaka 10 ndipo ankayenda mollowera kumene kunali Valjean ataberekera kumbuyo katonni yomwe anaimbanga ndi chingwe. Mnyamatayo anavala zovala zadokodoko komanso thalauza lobooka m’mawondo. Ndiyeno ankati akamaimba, ankaponya ndalama

yake m'mwamba n'kumaiwakha isanagwere pansi. Chifu-kwa cha zimenezi sanaone Jean Valjean yemwe anakhala m'mbali mwa msewu umene ankayendawo. Kenako anaponyanso ndalama ija m'mwamba. Koma ulendo uno analephera kuiwakha moti inagwera pansi n'kumayenda molowera kumene kunali Valjean, yemwe mosadziwa ananyamula phazi lake n'kuiponda.

Mnyamatayo sanachite mantha moti anayamba ku-yenda molowera kumene kunali Valjean.

“Monsieur, ndipatseni ndalama yanga.”

“Dzina lako ndi ndani?” anafunsa Valjean.

“Petit-Gervais,⁹” anayankha mnyamatako mwaulemu. “Ndimagwira ntchito yosesa m'makomo mwa anthu moti ndalama imene ndapeza lero ndi yomweyo basi.”

“Pita uko iwe, ndatenga ndalama yako nthawi yanjji?” anatero Valjean.

“Chonde Monsieur, ndipatseni ndalama yanga.”

Valjean anangozyolikira pansi moti sanamuyankhenso mnyamatayo.

“Ndipatseni ndalama yanga!” anayamba kulira mnyamata uja. “Ndipatseni ndalama yanga!”

Kenako mnyamatayo anamukwenya Valjean kwinaku akulira n'kumanena kuti ‘ndipatseni ndalama yanga’ koma Valjean ankangokhala ngati mwala. Iye ankangomuyang’ana mnyamatayo modabwa kwambiri. Kenako anamukankha n'kutola ndodo yake ndipo anati, “Ndiku-phatu ukapitiriza kuchita masewera amenewa! Ndichokere pano msanga!”

Mnyamatayo anachita mantha kwambiri ataona nkhope yoopsa ya Valjean moti anatembenuka n'kuthawa.

Valjean anaima kwa kanthawi akuyang’ana mukamdima komwe kanagwa madzulowo. Dzuwa linali likupita kukalowa tsopano moti mphepo yozizira inayamba

kuomba mwamphamvu. Mphepoyi inamulowa Valjean moti anayamba kumva kuzizira koopsa. Pamene anka-werama kuti atenge chikwama chake, anasuntha phazi lija ndipo anaona kuti ndalama yomwe mwana uja ankalirira itakwiririka pang’ono mumchenga. Kuona ndalamayo ku-namudzidzimutsa kwambiri moti zinkangokhala ngati wagwidwa shoko. “Ndalama yomwe mwana uja amalirira si imeneyi?” anadziyankhulira yekha Valjean. Nthawi yo-mweyo anawerama n’kutola ndalamayo. Kenako anaya-mba kuyang’ana uku ndi uku, koma chifukwa cha mdima, sankatha kuona chilichonse.

Posakhalitsa anayamba kuitana mnyamata uja, ko-ma palibe anayankha. Ataona kuti sigwira, anayamba ku-thamanga m’kanjira kamene mnyamatayo anathawira akuitana kuti: “Petit-Gervais! Petit-Gervais!” koma palibe anamuyankha. Patangodutsa nthawi yochepa, anakumana ndi wansembe wina atakwera hatchi.

“Kodi mwakumana ndi mnyamata kumene muku-chokeraku?” anafunsa Valjean.

Wansembeyo anapukusa mutu.

“Ayi. Mwafunsiranji?”

Valjean anatulutsa makobidi awiri a 5 franc n’ku-mupatsa wansembeyo.

“Mumupatse ndalama imeneyi mukakumana naye. Ayenera ali ndi zaka 10 ndipo amagwira ntchito yosesa m’makomo. Komanso ndili ndi pempho limodzi kwa inu Monsieur, mukuyenera kukandinenera kupolisi chifukwa ndinamubwera mwanayo ndalama yake. Ndalamayo ndi imeneyi, koma dikirani pang’ono ndikupatseninsu ina . . .”

Pamene Valjean ankatulutsa ndalamayo, wanse-mbeyo anamenya hatchi yake n’kumapita atakwiya kwa-mbiri.

Valjean anapitiriza kuyang’ana Petit-Gervais kwa

ola lathunthu, koma palibe chimene anaphulapo. Kenako anakhala pamwala atatoperatu. Mtima wake unali wachisoni kwambiri chifukwa cha zimene anachitira mnyamata wosalakwayo moti anagwira nkhope yake modzimvera chisoni. Koyamba pambuyo pa zaka 19, Valjean anayamba kulira.

2

Nyengo yozizira itangotha m'chaka cha 1818, tiatsikana tiwiri tinkasewera panja pamalo ena ogona alendo m'mudzi wotchedwa Montfermeil¹⁰, womwe unali pafupi ndi mzinda wa Paris. Tiatsikanati tinkakwera zende ndipo mayi awo, omwe anali onenepa, a tsitsi lofiira komanso nkhope yoyera, anakhala pakhonde n'kumayang'ana.

“Komatu ndiye muli ndi ana okongola, Madame,” mayiyo anamva mawu kumbuyo kwake.

Atatembenuka, anaona mtsikana wina atanyamula mwana yemwe anali chigonere m'manja mwake. Mtsikanayo anali wokongola kwambiri, komabe maonekedwe ake ankasonyeza kuti ndi wosauka komanso nkhope yake inkaoneka yosasangalala. Nkhope yake inali italembe-kalembeka ndi mavuto komanso mikwingwirima yomwe anakumana nayo pamoyo wake. Nazonso zovala zake zinali zakutha komanso zadokodoko. Anavalanso chipewa chaching'ono chomwe chinkangokhala ngati wangochikhazika pamwamba pa tsitsi lake loyera.

“Tathokoza mwatilimbikitsa,” anatero mzimayi uja. “Koma bwanji osapuma kaye pang'ono? Mukuonekatu kuti mwayenda mtunda wautali.”

Mtsikanayo anakhaladi pambali pa mayi watsitsi lofiirayo ndipo kenako anayamba kucheza.

“Ndine mayi Thénardier¹¹. Ineyo ndi mwamuna wanga timayendetsa malo ogona alendowa,” anatero mayi

watsitsi lofiira uja.

“Ine ndi Fantine,¹²” anatero mtsikanayo. “Ndiku-chokera ku Paris. Ndakhala kwa nthawi yaitali kumeneko ndi mwamuna wanga. Koma mwamuna wangayo atango-mwalira abwana anga anandichotsa ntchito.” Mtsikanayu sankafuna kuuza Mme Thénardier chilungamo. Zoonza zenizeni zinali zakuti munthu wina anangomupatsa mimba n’kumuthawa.

“Ndayenda wapansi kuchokera ku Paris. Ndikufuna ndikafufuze ntchito m’tauni ya Montreuil,¹³” anapitiriza mtsikanayo. “Nthawi zina mwana wangayu akumayenda yekha, koma monga mukuoneramu, mwanayu adakali wamng’ono moti sangayende mtunda wautali. Choncho ndikumafunikanso kumunyamula akatopa. N’chifukwa chake akugona.”

Pamene ankayankhula mawu amenewa, mtsikanayo anakisa mwana wakeyo mwachikondi ndipo mwanayo anadzidzimuka. Maso a mwanayo anali aakulu komanso okongola ngati a mayi ake. Mwanayo ataona kuti anzake akukwera zende, nthawi yomweyo analumphika pamiyendo pa mayi ake akusangalala ndipo anapita kumene kunali anzakewo n’kumakasevera.

“Kodi mwana wanuyu dzina lake ndi ndani?” anafunsa Mme Thénardier.

“Dzina lake ndi Euphrasie¹⁴, koma ineyo ndimangomutchula kuti Cossette¹⁵. Wangotsala pang’ono kukwanitsa zaka zitatu.”

Anthu awiriwa ankangoyang’ana ana awo aja akusevera limodzi.

“Koma ana ndi ochititsa chidwi kwambiri, savutika kupeza anzawo,” anatero Mme Thénardier akumwetulira. “Tangowaonani mmene akusewereramo. Akungokhala ngatitu ndi pachibale.”

Atangomva mawu amenewa, Fantine anachita zinthu zachilendo kwambiri. Anagwira dzanja la Mme Thénardier n’kunena kuti, “Kodi mungandisungireko mwanayu kwa kanthawi kochepe?”

Mme Thénardier anayang’ana Fantine akuoneka kuti akuganizira nkhaniyo, koma sananene chilichonse.

“Ndikuona kuti ndivutika kwambiri ndikapitirizabe kuyenda naye,” anatero Fantine. “Ndikufunika kupeza ntchito ndipo monga mukudziwira, si zophweka kupeza ntchito uli ndi mwana koma ulibe mwamuna. Ndikulumbira kuti ndikangoipeza ndibwera kudzamutenga. Mungandithandizeko chonde? Ndikupatsani 6 francs ngati mutamusunga kwa mwezi.”

Mme Thénardier sananenebe chilichonse, koma kenako anamva mawu a munthu wabambo kuchokera m’nyumba muja, “Tikhoza kumusunga mwanayu ngati mutalonjeza kuti muzitipatsa 7 francs mwezi ulionse. Komanso mukufunika kumaperekeratu ndalama ya miyezi 6.”

Fantine anagwirizana nazo.

“Komanso muzitumiza 15 francs yoti tizimugulira mwanayu zina ndi zina,” anawonjezera bambo uja.

“Ndizitumiza ndithu,” anatero Fantine akuganiza kuti akuyankhula ndi mwamuna wa Mme Thénardier. “Panopa ndili ndi 80 francs.”

“Kodi mwanayu ali ndi zovala zokwanira?” anafunsa bambo uja.

“Inde ali nazo,” anayankha Fantine. “Ali ndi zovala zokwanira komanso zokongola. Zonse zili m’chikwama changachi.”

Kenako nkhope ya bamboyo inaonekera pakhomo paja.

“Apo ndiye zili bwino. Tikhoza kukusungirani

mwanayu inuyo mukukafufuza ntchitoyo,” anatero bamboyo.

M’mawa wa tsiku lotsatira, Fantine anapsopsona mwana wake n’kuuyamba wa ku Montreuil. Anayenda njira yonse akulira mopwetekedwa mtima kwambiri chifukwa chozingwa mpaka kufika posungitsa mwana wake.

“Ndalama imeneyi itithandiza kwambiri,” anatero Bambo Thénardier kwa akazi awo aja. “Tsopano ndikhoza kukwanitsa kubweza ngongole zomwe ndili nazo n’kupe-wa kutsekeredwa m’ndende. Ndiwe mkazi wanzeru kwambiri. Unamuchenjerera mtsikana uja.”

“Komatu cholinga changa sichinali chimenecho,” anayankha Mayi Thénardier.

Patatha mwezi umodzi, banja la a Thénardier linalowanso m’mavuto azachuma moti anatenga zovala zokongola za Cossette n’kukazigulitsa 6 francs ku Paris. Kenako banjali linayamba kuveka mwanayu nsanza. Ikafika nthawi ya chakudya, mwanayu ankamupatsa zakudya zochepa kwambiri zomwe ankazidyera pansi pa tebulo. Anzake okhawo omwe anatsala nawo tsopano anali agalu komanso amphaka omwe ankatolera nawo limodzi nyenyiswa zakugwa patebulo la a Thénardier.

Tsopano Fantine anali atapeza ntchito ku Montreuil ndipo ankalembe kalata mwezi ulionse n’kufunsa kuti mwana wake ali bwanji. Koma nthawi zonse banja la a Thénardier linkayankha kuti Cossette akusangalala komanso akudya bwino. Chakumapeto kwa chaka chimenecho, a Thénardier anayamba kuoneka kuti sakukhutira ndi 7 francs yomwe ankalandira mwezi ulionse chifukwa chosamalira mwanayu. Choncho anawonjezera mtengo kuti akufuna azipatsidwa 12 francs ndipo Fantine anapereka popanda kunyinyirika. Kwa iyeyo chofunika kwambiri chinali choti mwana wake azisamalidwa bwino basi.

Koma chilungamo chake chinali choti banja la a Thénardier, lomwe linkakonda kwambiri ana awo awiri aja, Éponine¹⁶ ndi Azelma¹⁷, linkazunza kwambiri Cossette komanso kumugwiritsa ntchito ngati kapolo.

Banjali linkamukakamiza mwanayu kuti azilawira m'mawa n'kumagwira ntchito zowawa kunja kukuzizira. Koma ana awo awiri aja, Éponine ndi Azelma, ankavala zovala zokongola n'kumangokhalira kuseweretsa zidole. Pamene ankakwanita zaka 5, Cossette anali atawonderatu moti nkhope yake inali yosasangalatsa komanso sankakonda kuyankhulayankhula. Mavuto anali atamunyansitsa mwanayu moti chinthu chokhacho chomwe chikaoneka chokongola chinali maso ake abuluu aja basi.

Banja la a Thénardier silinkadziimba mlandu likamazunza Cossette chifukwa Fantine anali atasiya kutumiza ndalama zomwe anagwirizana kuti azipereka mwezi ulionse.

“Mwanayu ali ndi mwayi kuti tikumulolabe kukhala pakhomu pano,” banjalo linkatero likamacheza ndi anawo. “Akanakhala kuti sanakumane ndi asamariya achifundo ngati ife, bwenzi atasanduka masikini kalekale.”

* * *

Fantine atangofika m'tauni ya Montreuil, anapeza ntchito pafakitale ina yopanga magalasi. Kenako anapeza kanyumba kotu azigona ndipo akangolandira ndalama zake ankachotsapo zomwe anagwirizana ndi a Thénardier n'kuwatumizira. Kwa kanthawi kochepe, Fantine ankakhala moyo wosangalala. Iye anaiwalako mavuto ndipo ankangolota za Cossette komanso mapulani ake am'tsogolo. Koma chimwemwe chimenechi sichinakhalitse. Ngakhale ankachita zinthu mosamala kwambiri kuti anthu

asadziwe zoti ali ndi mwana, azimayi ena kufakitaleko anaitulukira moti anayamba kufalitsa mabodza. Pa nthawi imeneyi, chinali chitonzo chachikulu mkazi kukhala ndi mwana asali pabanja. Chifukwa cha manong’ onong’ owa, Fantine anachotsedwa ntchito. Iye anayesetsa kufufuza ntchito ya m’nyumba, koma palibe amene anamulemba. Kenako anayamba ntchito yosoka ndipo inkamuthandiza kuti azipeza kangachepe. Komabe, ndalama zomwe anka-peza zinali zochepa kwambiri moti sakanakwanitsa kumatumizanso ndalama kwa a Thénardier.

M’nyengo yozizira ya chaka chimenecho, Fantine anayesetsa kuchita zonse zomwe akanatha kuti asunge kandalama kenakake. Ankakwanitsa kuchita zimenezi posunga ndalama zomwe akanagulira nkhuni zoti azikolezera moto n’kumatenthetsera m’nyumba mwake. Choncho chifukwa chomangokhala wozizidwa, Fantine anayamba kudwaladwala. Pamene inkafika nyengo yozizira ya chaka chotsatira, ngongole zake zinali zitaunjikana mpaka kude nga moti banja la a Thénardier linamulemba kalata yomuopseza komanso anamuuza kuti Cossette alibe zovala. Anauza Fantine kuti atumize 10 francs mwamsanga kuti agulire mwanayo zovala, apo bi-i afa ndi kuzizira. Fantine analibe 10 francs ndipo iye anali ndi mantha kuti mwana wake akhoza kuuma ndi mphepo. Choncho ananyamuka n’kupita ku saluni ina ya m’tauniyo. Iye anachotsa pini yomwe anamangira tsitsi lake lokongola lija ndipo lonse linafutukuka mpaka m’chiuno.

“Koma ndiye muli ndi tsitsi lokongolatu!” anatero wokonza tsitsi musaluniyo.

“Mupereka zingati ndikakupatsani tsitsi limeneli?” anafunsa Fantine.

“Ndikupatsani 10 francs.”

“Chabwino, liduleni.”

Atagulitsa tsitsi lakeli, Fantine anagula diresi n'kulitumiza kwa a Thénardier. Banja la a Thénardier litalandira diresilo linakwiya kwambiri. Iwo ankafuna kuti Fantine atumize ndalama osati chovala. Kenako anatenga diresilo n'kulipereka kwa mwana wawo, Éponine, ndipo Cossette anapitirizabe kukupulidwa ndi mphepo.

Patatha milungu ingapo, Fantine analandiranso kalata ina kuchokera kwa a Thénardier. Ulendo uno analemba kuti akufuna 40 francs. Anaopseza Fantine kuti atumize mwamsanga ndalamayi chifukwa Cossette akudwala kwambiri moti akufuna kuigwiritsa ntchito polipira dokotala. Fantine atamva mawu amenewa anagwira njakata. Iye sankadziwa kuti ndalama yochuluka choncho aipeza bwanji. Choncho ananyamuka kumene ankakhala n'kumangoyendayenda m'tauni mutu wake usakugwira. Mwa-dzidzidzi anangoona khamu la anthu litaunjikana pamalo ena pamsika. Iye anapita pomweko kuti akaone kuti chikuchitika n'chiyani ndipo anapeza kuti anthu anali atazungulira dokotala wa mano. Kwa kanthawi, Fantine anaiwala mavuto ake ndipo anamwetulira atazindikira kuti dokotalayo ankagulitsa mano achinyengo kwa anthu am'tauni ya Montreuil. Pamene ankamwetulira, mano ake okongola anaonekera ndipo dokotala uja anawaona.

“Koma ndiye muli ndi mano okongolatu,” anatero dokotalayo. “Ngati mutandigulitsa mano anu awiri apatso golowo, ndikhoza kukupatsani 40 francs pompano.”

Fantine atangomva zimenezi ananyamuka n'kumapita kwawo atakhumudwa kwambiri.

“Tsitsi langa lidzameranso,” anatero mumtima mwake, “koma mano akapita, ndiye kuti apita basi.”

Koma atayambiranso kuganizira za Cossette, anasintha maganizo ndipo anayamba kuona kuti maonekedwe ake si ofunika kwenikweni poyerekezera ndi moyo wa

mwana wake. Madzulo a tsiku limenelo, Fantine anapita kukaonana ndi dokotala uja ndipo anagulitsa mano ake awiri apatsogolo.

Fantine sanagone usiku umenewo. Iye anakhala pabedi lake atazizidwa komanso akunjenjemera. Kenako anayang'ana makobidi awiri omwe ankanyezimira patebulo ndipo anamwetulira nkhamo zake zikunyeka magari.

“Zimenezi ndi zazing'ono,” anatero muntima mwake. “Bola ndipulumutse moyo wa mwana wanga.”

M'kupita kwa nthawi, ntchito yake yosoka ija inasiyanso kuyenda bwino moti umphawi wake unkangowonjezerekawonjezerekabe. Komanso banja la a Thénardier linapitirizabe kuwonjezera ndalama zomwe Fantine ankayenera kupereka pakutha pa mwezi. Chifukwa chopanikizika ndi nkhwana, nthawi zina Fantine ankatha kulira usiku wonse ndipo palibe chimene akanachita kuti athetse mavuto ake. Iye anali atagulitsa kale tsitsi komanso mano ake. Palibenso chinanso chimene chinatsala chomwe akanagulitsa n'kupeza ndalama. Choncho anaona kuti sanga chitirensa mwina koma kugulitsa thupi lake, moti anyamba uhule.

3

Chakumadzulo m’nyengo ina yozizira, mayi wina wamagweru, yemwe anali ndi nkhope yothimbirira ndi mavuto, anagwidwa ndi apolisi chifukwa chomenya bambo wina pamsewu. Iye anatengedwa n’kupititsidwa kupolisi komwe Insipekita Javert¹⁸ ankagwira ntchito. Javert anauza mayiyu kuti akakhala kundende kwa miyezi 6.

“Chonde, Monsieur Javert,” anatero mayiyo atagwada pansi. “Ndili ndi ngongole ya 100 francs. Ndikapanda kubweza ngongole imeneyo, mwana wanga athamangitsidwa kumene amasungidwa ndipo avutika koopsa. Chonde, ndichitireni chifundo musanditumize kundende.”

Javert ankamvetsera mayiyu ataipitsa nkhope, ndipo kenako analamula wapolisi wina kuti amutenge n’kukamutsekera. Pamene wapolisiyo ankayesa kukoka mayiyo, munthu wina anatulukira ndipo anati, “Tadikirani kaye pang’ono.”

Javert anatembenuka n’kuona Monsieur Madeleine¹⁹, yemwe anali mmodzi mwa anthu olemekkezeka kwammbiri m’tauniyo.

Zimamveka kuti madzulo ena mu December 1815, Monsieur Madeleine anafika modabwitsa m’tauni ya Montreuil. Pamene ankafika m’tauniyi analibiretu kalikonse, kungoti anali wanzeru. Monsieur Madeleine ankadziwa njira yotchipa yopangira magalasi moti posakhalitsa anatsegula fakitale yopanga magalasi. Fakitaleyo inayamba

kupanga ndalama zochuluka kwambiri moti anatsegulanso mafakitale enanso awiri. Zimenezi zinachititsa kuti anthu ambiri apeze ntchito. Ngakhale anali ndi chuma chambiri, Monsieur Madeleine ankakhala moyo wosalira zambiri. Ndalama zomwe ankapeza ankazigwiritsa ntchito poma-nga sukulu komanso zipatala. Zimenezi zinachititsa kuti anthu ayambe kuwakonda kwambiri moti mu 1820 anawasankha kuti akhale meya wawo.

Komabe, panali munthu m'modzi yemwe ankadana kwambiri ndi Monsieur Madeleine. Munthu ameneyu anali Insipekita Javert.

Javert ankakaikira zochita za Monsieur Madeleine ndipo ankaganiza kuti anawaonapo zaka zambiri zapitazo asanabwere m'tauniyi. Koma zimenezi ankangozisunga mumtima. Ankadziwa yekha zoti Monsieur Madeleine anali munthu woipa kwambiri komanso chigawenga choma mtima.

Javert anamva kuwawa mumtima ataona munthu ameneyu atabwera kudzapulumutsa Fantine yemwe ankayenera kutsekeredwa m'ndende. Nayenso Fantine sanasangalale naye moti atangomuona anakwiya n'kumutsira malovu.

“Abwana a fakitale ndinkagwirako ntchito ija si inu?” anatero Fantine. “Koma mumadziwa kuti ndinachotsedwa ntchito chifukwa cha inu? Tsopano taonani pamene zinthu zafikapa! Onani ndafika pokakamizika kukhala munthu woipa! Mukuganiza kuti ineyo ndikana-tani? Ndili ndi chingongole chomwe ndikulephera kubweza ndipo ndikapanda kutero ndiye kuti mwana wanga sindidzamuonanso. Zonsezi zachitika chifukwa cha inu!”

Meyayo anayang'ana Insipekita Javert n'kunena chapansipasi kuti, “Mayiyu akuyenera kumasulidwa.”

“Monsieur Madeleine, zimene mukupemphazotu

sizingatheke,” anatero Javert. “Mayi ameneyu wamenya bambo wosalakwa ndipo bamboyo ndi munthu wolemekezeka kwambiri. Komanso posachedwapa ndamuona akukulavulirani inuyo, meya wa tauni ino. Azimayi opanda khalidwe ngati amenewa amafunika kupatsidwa chilango chokhwima kuti atengerepo phunziro.”

“Komabe ndimvereni chifukwa ndinaona zonse zimene zinachitika ndi maso angawa,” anatero M²⁰. Madeleine. “Vuto ndi bambo uja, osati mayiyu moti ngati mukufuna kumanga munthu, pitani mukagwire bambo uja.”

Javert anakangana ndi M. Madeleine kwa kanthawi. Kenako anangololera moti anatuluka panja atakwiya kwambiri. Fantine anayamba kunjenjemera mofanana ndi mmene Javert ankachitira pamene ankatuluka panja paga. Munthu amene ankafuna kumutulutsa m’ndendeyu ndi yemwenso anachititsa kuti afike pamenepa. Apa zinkangokhala ngati Mdyerekezi waganiza zoti achite chifundo moti nayenso Fantine sankadziwa choti achite.

“Ndinamva zimene munanena zija,” anatero M. Madeleine. “Kunena zooni, sindimadziwa zoti munachotsedwa ntchito. Koma panopa ndiyesetsa kukuthandizani mmene ndingathere. Ndibweza ngongole zonse zomwe muli nazo komanso ndikonza zoti mwana wanu abwere kuno. Ndikupatsaninso ndalama zomwe mukufuna. Ndikufuna kuti musadzakhalenso moyo wovutika. Komanso ndikufuna kukuuza kuti pamaso pa Mulungu, si inu munthu woipa ngati mmene mukuganiziramu.”

Fantine anayang’ana M. Madeleine misozi italengeza m’maso. Pambuyo pokumana ndi mavuto oopsa pamoyo wake, munthu wina anali akumusonyeza chifundo. Iye ankaona kuti tsopano azipeza chithandizo ndipo anayamba kukhalanso ndi chiyembekezo choti adzasa-

ngalalanso limodzi ndi mwana wake Cossette. Popanda kunena zambiri, Fantine anagwada pansi n’kuyamba kukisa dzanja la M. Madeleine.

Posakhalitsa M. Madeleine anatumizira a Thénardier 300 francs ndipo anawauza kuti atumize Cossette mwamsanga. Koma a Thénardier ataona ndalamazo anayamba kuganiza kuti Fantine walemera, moti analemba kalata n’kunena kuti ngati akufuna mwanayo, atumizenso 500 francs. M. Madeleine anatumizadi ndalamayo, koma banja la a Thénardier lomwe linali lachinyengo komanso la utambwali kwambiri, linapezanso chifukwa china chosatumizira Cossette.

* * *

Milungu inadutsa ndipo ngakhale anali wosangalala kusiyanana ndi mmene moyo wake unalili kwa nthawi yaitali, Fantine anayamba kudwala. Mavuto komanso umphawi, zomwe anakumana nazo kwa zaka zambiri, zinali zitayamba kumubwezera. Posakhalitsa thupi lake linafookeratu moti ankalephera ndi kuyenda komwe.

“Kodi mwana wanga abwera liti?” Fantine anafunsa M. Madeleine atabwera kudzamuona.

“Posachedwapa,” anayankha M. Madeleine ndipo nkhope ya Fantine inawala ndi chisangalalo.

Ndiyeno tsiku lina m’mawa, pamene M. Madeleine ankakonzeka kuti angopita ku Montfermeil kukatenga Cossette, analandira mlendo. Anali Insipekita Javert ndipo analowa mu ofesi ya meyayo n’kumadikirira kuti amalize kuona mapepala ake.

“Javert, pali chimene ukufuna kundiuzana?” anafunsa M. Madeleine atamaliza kuona mapepala aja.

“Ndabwera kudzakupepesani,” anayankha Insipeki-

ta Javert.

“Ukufuna undipepese chifukwa chiyani?”

“Ndikuona kuti ndinakulakwirani kwambiri. Ndina-kukwiyirani masabata 6 apitawo pamene munkandiuza kuti ndimasule mayi woyendayenda uja. Nditangochoka kumene kuja ndinalemba kalata yopita kumalikulu athu ku Paris n’kuwafotokozera za inu.”

“Unawafotokozera za ine? Unawauza *chiyani*?”

“Mundikhululukire mbuyanga. Nkhani yake ndi yoti poyamba ndinkaganiza kuti ndinu Jean Valjean. Munthu ameneyu ndinamuona zaka 20 zapitazo ndipo anali mkaidi pamene ndinkagwira ntchito ku Toulon²¹. Koma atangotulutsidwa m’ndende, munthuyu anaba mipeni ko-manso zinthu zina zasiliva kwa bishopu wa ku Digne komanso anafwamba mnyamata wina n’kumubera ndalama. Tinayesetsa kuti kumufufuza paliponse kuti timugwi-re, koma tinalephera. Ndiye mutabwera kuno, ndinayamba kuganiza kuti munthuyo ndi inuyo. Koma tsopano ndaona kuti ndinkalakwitsa kwambiri. Pepani bwana wanga. Ndi-kudziwa kuti simukuyenera kundichitira chifundo moti mukhoza kundichotsa ntchito chifukwa cha kusakhulu-pirika kumene ndasonyezaku.”

M. Madeleine, anayamba kuyang’ana Javert ndipo nkhope yawo sinasintho. Kenako ananena chapansipansi kuti: “Pepa m’bale wanga, nkhanu imene ukundifotoko-zerayi sindikuimvetsa.”

“Apolisi a kumalikulu athu ku Paris anandiuza kuti Jean Valjean anamangidwa chaka chatha atagwidwa aku-ba maapozi,” anatero Javert. “Zikumveka kuti anasintha dzina n’kumadziwika kuti Champmathieu²² ndipo anka-khala mobisala m’mudzi wotchedwa Ailly-le-Haut-Clo-che²³. Anthu awiri omwe anali naye limodzi kundende ya ku Toulon ndi amene anamuzindikira kuti ndi Jean Val-

jean. Ndiyeno ineyo ndinapanga ulendo wopita kundende ya Arras²⁴, komwe anamutsekera, kuti ndikadzionere ndekha ndipo ndinapezadi kuti ndi Jean Valjean. Koma ukamufunsa akumakana kuti si iyeyo, ndipo zimenezo si zodabwitsa. Akudziwa kuti akangovomera kuti ndi Jean Valjean ndiye kuti wavalanso mlandu wobera bishopu, yemwe monga tikudziwira anamwalira zaka zapitazo. Avalanso mlandu wobera mnyamata wovutika uja ndipo chiweruzo chake akhoza kukakhala kundende kwa moyo wake wonse.”

M. Madeleine anayambanso kuyang’ana mapepala ake aja.

“Zimene ukundiuzazitu sindikuzimvetsa ngakhale pang’ono,” anatero M. Madeleine. “Bwanji m’malo motaya nthawi yako kuno, upite uzikagwira ntchito zina? Kapenatu ulibe zochita lero?”

“Ndimafuna kuti mawa ndipite ku Arras kuti ndikamvetsere mlandu wa munthu ameneyo,” anatero Javert. “Koma chifukwa cha zimene ndakuuzanizi, mukuyenera kundichotsa ntchito.”

Kenako M. Madeleine anaimirira.

“Javert,” anatero, “iweyo ndiwe munthu wolemekezeka kwambiri. Ndikudziwa kuti si iwe munthu woipa ayi. Tonsefe ndi anthu ndipo nthawi zina timalakwitsa. Choncho usadandaule za nkhani imeneyi. Ukhoza kupitiriza kugwira ntchito yako monga Insipekita.”

Kenako anatambasula dzanja lake kuti amugwire chanza, koma Javert anakana. M’malomwake anati: “Ndinachita zinthu zopanda chilungamo kwa munthu wosala-kwa. Choncho ine si woyenera ngakhale kukugwirani chanza.”

Atangonena mawu amenewo, anawerama popereka ulemu. Kenako anatuluka muofesimo. Iye anasiya M. Ma-

deleine akunyengezera kuyang'ana mapepala awo aja, koma akuoneka ndi nkhope yodabwa kwambiri.

Madzulo a tsiku limenelo, M. Madeleine anapita kukaona Fantine. Matenda ake anali atafika poipa kwambiri moti ankatsokomola modetsa nkhwawa. Ngakhale ankadwala chonchi, chinthu chokhacho chomwe ankafuna chinali kuonanso mwana wake basi.

“Ndikufuna mwana wanga, ndikufuna Cossette,” anatero Fantine.

“Musadandaule, abwera posachedwapa,” anatero M. Madeleine pomulimbitsa mtima.

M. Madeleine anakhala pabedi kwa ola lathunthu. Kenako anauza nesi wapachipatala chomwe Fantine anagonekedwa kuti amusamalire bwino. Atatero ananyamuka n’kumapita kwawo. Usiku umenewo sanagone ngakhale pang’ono. Nkhani imene inkawasowetsa tulo inali yokhudza Champmathieu yomwe Javert anawafotokozera. Mwi-na pofika pano mwazindikira kale kuti M. Madeleine ndi amenedi anali Jean Valjean, komanso n’kutheka kuti mwaona kale kuti M. Madeleine, monga mmene tipitirizebe kumutchula m’chigawo chino, sakanalola kuti Champmathieu apite kundende pamilandu yomwe sanapalamule. Iye ankadziwa ndithu, ngakhale sizinali zophweka kuti avomereze zimenezi, kuti ankafunika kupita ku Arras n’kukanena zoonza zake. Komabe kuchita zimenezi kukanachititsa kuti ataye chilichonse chomwe anachipeza movutikira pogwira ntchito mwakhama. Komanso ankafunika kuswa pangano lomwe anachita ndi Fantine loti akamutengera mwana wake, Cossette, kuchokera ku Montfermeil. Pamapeto pake, M. Madeleine anayamba kuona kuti chofunika kwambiri ndi kunena chilungamo m’malo mopweteketsa munthu wosalakwa.

* * *

M'mawa wa tsiku lotsatira, M. Madeleine ananyamuka ulendo wautali wopita ku Arras. Anayenda ulendowu kwa maola oposa 12. Pamene ankafika m'tauniyi, anapeza mlandu wa Champmathieu utayamba kale. M'khotilo munali mutadzadziratu ndi anthu, koma popeza M. Madeleine anali munthu wolemekezeka komanso wodziwika kwambiri, analoledwa kukakhala kumbuyo kwa woweruza milandu. Iye ankangoonerera pamene mboni zinkabwera n'kumalumbira zitagwira Baibulo kuti munthu amene ankaimbidwa mlanduyo ndi Jean Valjean. Champmathieu, yemwe anali wokulupala komanso woganiza mofoira, ankakana chilichonse chimene mbonizo zinkanena nthawi yoti ayankhule ikakwana. Koma anthu omwe anali m'khotimo ankayesa akungochita masewera moti ena anayamba kuseka atamumva akukana kwamtuwagalu kuti iyeyo si Jean Valjean. Nayenso Champmathieu anagwidwa phwete moti anayamba kuseka, zomwe tikaganizira kukula kwa mlandu ankaimbidwawu sizikanamuthadiza ngakhale pang'ono.

Kenako, atamaliza kumvetsera mboni zonse, woweruza uja anauza anthu m'khotimo kuti akhale chete. Pamene ankati azipereka chigamulo, anangoona M. Madeleine akuimirira n'kuyamba kuyankhula.

“Munthu ameneyu si Jean Valjean.”

Anthu anadabwa kwambiri ndi zimenezi moti anayamba kunong'onezana podabwa ndi zimene munthu wolemekezekayo ankanena.

M. Madeleine anadikira kuti kunong'ona kuja kutha. Kenako analengeza mokweza kuti iyeyo ndi amene ali Jean Valjean. Poyamba, palibe amene ankakhulupirira. Koma M. Madeleine anayamba kufunsa mboni zija mafu-

nso ndipo zinalephra kuyankha. Kenako anayamba kula-katula zinthu zomwe ndi Jean Valjean yekha amene akanazidziwa. Anthuwo atayang'anitsitsa nkhope M. Madeleine, anazindikira kuti akunena zoona. Anthu onse m'khotimo anazizidwa thupi ndipo palibe amene ananenanso kanthu.

“Basi, tsopano ndiuyambe,” anatero M. Madeleine pamapeto pake. “Ndili ndi ntchito ina yofunika kwambiri yoti ndichite. Nonse mukudziwa kumene ndimakhala, ndipo dziwani kuti sindiyesa kuzemba kapena kuthawa mlanduwu.”

Anthu omwe anali m'khotimo anaimirira n'kupe-reka njira yoti adutse. M. Madeleine anayenda n'kutuluka panja. Atangochoka, woweruza uja anamasula Champmathieu. Champmathieu anabalalikiratu moti ankaona kuti anthu onse omwe anali m'khoti muja ndi openga.

* * *

Chakumadzulo kwa tsiku lotsatira, M. Madeleine anapita kukaona Fantine.

“Akupeza bwanji odwalawa madzulo ano?” anafunsa M. Madeleine ndipo nesi yemwe ankayang'anira Fantine anayankha.

“Zikuoneka kuti akupezako bwino. Koma akufun-tsitsa ataona mwana wake.”

“Chifukwa cha mavuto ena, ndalephra kusunga lonjezo langa,” anayankha M. Madeleine.

“Ndiye timuuzza chiyani akadzuka n'kumafuna mwana wake?” nesi uja anafunsa akuoneka wankhawa. “Ndikuona kuti asokonezeka kwambiri, mwinanso mate-nda ake akhoza kukula kwambiri akamva zoti mwana wake sanabwere mutamulonjeza kuti mukupita kukamu-

tenga.”

“Zitheka koma, Mulungu atithandiza,” anatero M. Madeleine mousa moyo.

Kwa kanthawi M. Madeleine anakhala pambali pa bedi lomwe Fantine anagona n’kumamuyang’ana mwachidwi. Fantine ankapuma movutikira kwambiri, koma nkhope yake inkaoneka yamtendere komanso yodekha. Koma kenako, anatsegula maso ake n’kuona M. Madeleine.

“Cossette ali kuti?” anafunsa Fantine akumwetulira.

“Mumuonabe,” anatero M. Madeleine modekha akumugwira dzanja lake. “Panopa mwafooka kwambiri moti simungakwanitse kumuona. Dikirani pang’ono, mumuona mukayamba kupeza bwino.”

Fantine anamwetulira, kenako anayamba kufotokozaza zomwe angachite akakumananso ndi mwana wake. Koma kenako nkhope yake inasintha ndipo anayang’ana kukhomo mokhumudwa kwambiri. M. Madeleine omwe anali atagwira dzanja lake anatembenuka n’kuona Insipekita Javert. Fantine ankaganiza kuti wapolisiyo wabwera kudzamumanga moti anagwira mwamphamvu dzanja la M. Madeleine.

“Osachita mantha,” anatero M. Madeleine pomukhazika mtima pansi. “Sanabwerere iwe.” Kenako andzuka pang’onopang’ono kuchokera pamene anakhala n’kumayenda molowera kumene kunali Javert. “Ndikudziwa chimene wabwerera, Javert,” anatero chapansipansi kuti Fantine asamve nawo zomwe ankanena. “Koma chonde ingondipatsako masiku atatu okha, masiku atatu basi. Ndikufuna ndikatenge mwana wa mayi wagona apoyo. Ngati ukufuna ndikhoza kukupatsa ndalama iliyonse yomwe ungakonde kuti undisiye kaye mpaka nditachita zimenezi.”

“Mukuganiza kuti ndine chitsiru?” anatero Javert kwinaku akuseka mwamphamvu. “Mukutanthauza kuti ndikupatseni masiku atatu kuti muthawe?”

Fantine, yemwe anamva zimene M. Madeleine ananena, ngakhale anayesetsa kuyankhula chapansipansi kuti asamve, anayamba kunjenjemera.

“Mwati mukufuna mukatenge mwana wanga?” anafunsa Fantine. “Ndiye kuti mwanayo sanabwerebe? Inu a nesi, tayankhani . . . mwana wanga ali kuti? Cossette ali kuti? Ndikufuna kumuona pompanopompano. M. Madeleine . . .”

“Takhala chete hule iwe,” Javert anamudula mawu mwankhanza kwambiri. “Kunja kuno kulibe Monsieur Madeleine. Munthu waima apayu ndi Jean Valjean ndipo iyeyu ndi chigawenga choopsa kwambiri. Ingoiwaliratu za mwana wakoyo . . .”

Fantine anangopezeka kuti wadzuka mwadzidzidzi n’kukhala pansi. Iye anayang’ana amuna awiriwo, ndipo kenako anatembenukira nesi uja. Ankaoneka ngati akufuna kuyankhula zinazake, koma palibe mawu omwe anatuluka pakamwa pake. M’malomwake, anangoyendetsa manja ake ndipo anagweranso papilo wake. Ulendo unali womwewo.

Jean Valjean (monga momwe tiyambe kumutchulira tsopano) anakankha mkono wa Javert womwe unamugwira ndipo anathamangira kumene kunali bedi kuja. Iye anayang’ana maso a Fantine ndipo anazindikira kuti wamwalira.

“Taona tsopano zimene zachitika, waphatu mayi wosalakwayu!” anatero Valjean mokwiya akutembenukira kumene kunali Javert kwinaku akumuyang’ana ndi diso loopsa.

“Ine sindinabwere kuno kudzakangana ndi mu-

nthu,” anatero Javert, akubwerera m’mbuyo mwamantha. Iye ankaopa kuti Valjean akhoza kumuukira. “Ngati sukufuna kuti tipitire limodzi mwaulemu, ndiitana anyamata anga.”

Valjean anayang’ana bwinobwino m’chipindamo, akuganizira zimene angachite kuti athawe. Koma sanaganize zimenezi kwa nthawi yaitali. Anatembenukiranso Fantine ndipo anaona komaliza nkhope yake yomvetsa chisoni komanso maso ake abulu-u omwe anangoti mbee. Kenako anawerama n’kumutseka maso ndipo anabzala mlomo wake pachipumi cha Fantine. Atatero anadzuka n’kubwereranso kumene kunali Javert.

“Ndakonzeka tsopano, mukhoza kundimanga,” anatero Valjean.

Nkhani ya kumangidwa kwa M. Madeleine inafalikira mofulumira kwambiri m’tauni yonse.

“Tinkadziwa kuti pali chinachake chodabwitsa ndi munthu amene uja,” ankatero ena pofuna kusonyeza kuti amadziwa kale zoti M. Madeleine ndi Jean Valjean.

Patadutsa masiku awiri kuchokera pamene anamangidwa, Jean Valjean anathawa m’ndende. Zitsulo za windo la ndendeyo zinapindidwa ngati mawaya ndipo iye anatuluka n’kuthawa. Ulendo umenewunso anthu ankakamba nkhanayi mokhala ngati amadziwa kale zoti athawa.

“N’zosatheka kumanga chigawenga choopsa ngati chimene chija n’kumachisunga m’ndende ya m’tauni yaing’ono ngati ino mukuyembekezera kuti sichithawa,” ankatero ena.

4

Khirisimasi ya mu 1823, inali yosaiwalika kwa anthu am'mudzi wa Montfermeil. Pa tsikuli, anthu azisudzo komanso amalonda ochokera ku Paris anabwera m'mudziwu n'kuyala malonda awo m'mbali mwa msewu ndipo ena anachita kumanga mabenchi oti azigulitsirapo zinthu zawo. A Thénardier nawonso anapha ndalama zochuluka zedi kumalo awo ofikira alendo aja. Alendo ambirimбири ankadya komanso kumwa akuchita phokoso lalikulu m'nyumba yawo. Koma Cossette, yemwe tsopano anali ndi zaka 8, anakhala panso pa tebulo kukhitchini. Iye anali atavala nsanza ndipo ankaluka masokosi a Éponine ndi Azelma.

Ndiye madzulo a tsikuli, Mme Thénardier anatuma Cossette, kunja kukuzizira kwambiri, kuti akatunge madzi kumtsinje. Mtsinjewo unali kumunsi kwa phiri lomwe panali mudzi wa Montfermeil. Komanso Cossette ankadana ndi zopita kukatunga madzi kunja kutayamba mdima. Modandaula kwambiri anatola chidebe chopanda kanthu chomwe chinali chachikulu ngati iyeyo ndipo atangotuluka pakhomo, Madame Thénardier anamuitana.

“Ukamabwera kumadziko uguleko buledi,” anatero akumupatsa ndalama.

Cossette analandira khobidi lomwe anamupatsa ndipo analiika mosamala m'thumba la malaya ake n'kunyamuka. Iye anali atazizidwa kwambiri komanso ali ndi

njala ndipo ankayenda pang'onopang'ono atanyamula chidebe chija. Posakhalitsa anadutsa mumsewu munadza-za amalonda aja ndipo anayamba kudzipanikiza pakati pa anthu omwe ankagula zinthu. Akudutsa benchi ina, Cossette analephera kupirira moti anaima n'kuyamba kuyang'ana chidole chokongola chomwe chinali ndi tsitsi lago-lide. Chidolecho chinavekedwa diresi lapinki. Ana onse am'mudziwu ankati akaona chidolechi ankasirira kwambiri. Kungoti palibe amene akanakwanitsa kuchigula chifukwa chinali chodula kwambiri.

Cossette anayang'ana chidolecho kwa mphindi zingapo, koma atakumbukira kuti watumidwa kumadzi anayambanso kuyenda n'kumatsetserika ndi phiri akusiya anthu omwe ankagula zinthu aja akuseka komanso kusangalala kumbuyo kwake. Atangoyamba kutsetserika ndi phiri lija, Cossette anayamba kuchita mantha chifukwa cha mdima woopsa womwe unkabwera chifukwa cha mitengo yomwe inali m'mbali mwa njira yomwe ankadutsayo. Atafika kumtsinjeko, anawerama n'kulowetsa chidebe chija m'madzi. Iye sanaone pamene ndalama anapatsidwa ndi Mme Thénardier ija inkagwera m'madzi. Kenako ndi timanja take ting'onoting'ono, tomwe tinali titaumiratu ndi mphepo, Cossette anayamba kukoka chidebecho n'kumakwera nacho chitunda. Koma chidebecho chinkalembera kwambiri moti atangoyenda mapazi angapo anaima kaye kuti apume. Kenako anayambanso kuchikoka ndipo anayendanso pang'ono n'kupuma. Kenako makokedwe ake anayamba kufookerafookerabe moti ankasuntha ngati bongololo. Mphamvu zinali zitamuthera ndipo anaima n'kutsamira mtengo womwe unali m'mbali mwa kanjira kaja. Chifukwa cha mantha, Cossette anayamba kulira.

“Chonde Mulungu ndithandizeni!” anatero Cossette

misozi ikutsika m’masaya.

Mwadzidzidzi, anangozindikira dzanja lalikulu lanyamula chidebe chija. Atayang’ana, anaona kuti ndi munthu wamkulu watsitsi labulauni. Munthuyo ankaoneka mwachilendo zedi ndi chipewa chachitali komanso chijasi chachikasu chomwe anavala.

“Chidebe chimenechi ndi cholemera kwambiri moti mwana ngati iwe sungachikwanitse,” anatero munthu wamtaliyo akuyang’ana Cossette.

N’zodabwitsa kuti Cossette sanachite mantha ndi munthuyu. Panali chinachake chomwe chinkamuchititsa kuti asawope. Bamboyo ankaoneka kuti ankamudera nkawa kwambiri moti ankadziwa kuti sangamuchite chipongwe. Bamboyo ananyamula chidebe chija mpaka pamwamba pa phiri ndipo anayenda limodzi mpaka anayamba kupeza midzi. Cossette anamulongosolera munthuyo mavuto omwe ankakumana nawo kunyumba kwa a Thénardier. Munthu wachikulireyo ankamvetsera mwatcheru komanso kumufunsa mafunso ambiri.

Pamene ankayandikira malo ofikira alendo aja, Cossette anamutembenukira bamboyo n’kumuuza kuti: “Mukhoza kundipatsano chidebecho. Ndikuopa kuti Mme Thénardier akangozindikira kuti munandinyamulira chidebechi andimenya koopsa.”

Munthu wachikulireyo anamupatsadi chidebecho ndipo onse analowa limodzi m’nyumba yofikira alendoyo.

“Kodi iwe, n’chifukwa chiyani wachedwa chonchi? Kodi madziwo amalimba?” anatero Mme Thénardier atakwiya kwambiri.

“Bambowa akufuna malo ogona,” anatero Cossette posintha nkani kwinaku akunjenjemera poyembekezera kumenyedwa.

Mme Thénardier anayang’ana munthu wachikuli-

reyo mosamusamala. Atangomuona anazindikira kuti sangakhale ndi ndalama zolipirira malo ogona.

“Pepani bambo, zipinda zonse zatengedwa,” anatero Mme Thénardier.

“Komatu ndalama ndili nazo,” anatero munthu wachikulireyo.

“Mtengo waketu ndi 40 sous,²⁵” anayankha Mme Thénardier (ananena zimenezi ngakhale kuti mtengo wake weniweni unali 20 sous).

“40 sous? Chabwino ndipereka,” anavomereza bambo uja.

Kenako bamboyo anakhala pansi. Cossette anabweretsa kapu ya vinyo n’kumupatsa ndipo atangopereka kapuyo anapita kukakhala pansi pa tebulo lija kuti akapitirize kuluka masokosi aja. Koma atangokhala pansi, anamva Mme Thénardier akuitana mokalipa.

“Kodi iwe Cossette, buledi ndinakutuma uja ali kuti?”

Cossette, yemwe anali ataiwala zoti anatumidwa buledi, anachoka pansi pa tebulo lija mofulumira.

“Ndinapeza ogulitsa buledi atatseka,” anayankha mwamantha Cossette.

“Ndiye ndalama yanga ili kuti?”

Cossette anapisa m’thumba la malaya ake koma anapeza kuti mulibe kanthu ndipo nkhope yake inasinthiratu ndi mantha.

“Iwe usandichedwetse, ndalama yanga ili kuti?” anatero Mme Thénardier atafufuma ndi mkwiyo.

Cossette sananene chilichonse. Iye ankangoyembekezera kumenyedwa basi. Pamene Mme Thénardier ankati azimukuntha, munthu wachikulire uja analowerera.

“Madame, ndinatola ndalama iyi pansipa. N’kutheka kuti ndi imene mwanayo wagwetsa.”

Mme Thénardier analandira ndalamayo n’kuchokapo. Pamene ankatsegula chitseko cholowa m’chipinda chamkati, Éponine ndi Azelma anatulukira. Ana amenewa anali athanzi kwambiri ndipo munthu wachikulire uja anadabwa ataona zimenezi. Anavalanso zovala zotentha bwino ndipo masaya awo anali aakulu ngati mabanzi. Mayi awo aja atangowaona anawakumbatira komanso kuwakisa ndipo kenako anapita pafupi ndi moto n’kumakaseweretsa chidole. Cossette yemwe anali atabwerera pansi pa tebulo, ankangowanyang’ana anzakewo mosirira kwinaku akuluka. Patangotha kanthawi pang’ono, anzakewo anasiya chidole chija n’kumakasewera ndi mphaka. Cossette atamwaza maso n’kuona kuti palibe akumuona, anatola chidolecho n’kumachiseweretsa. Koma chimwemwe chake sichinapite patali. Anzake aja anamuona akuseweretsa chidolecho moti nthawi yomweyo anayamba kulira ngati wina wawatsina. Mme Thénardier anatulukira ngati chiphaliwali ndipo anamupeza Cossette atagwira chidole chija. Cossette atangowaona anasiya chidolecho pansi n’kuyamba kulira.

“Kodi chikuchitika n’chiyani?” anafunsa bambo uja akudzuka pamene anakhala.

“Bambo, zoonza simukuona zimene zikuchitikazi?” Mme Thénardier anatero utsi wa mkwiyo ukutulukira m’makutu. “Chitsiru chaima apachi chalanda chidole cha ana angawa. Chaiwala kuti ndi ine amene ndimachidyetsa komanso kuchisamalira.”

“Komabe sindikuona kuti pamenepa pali nkhani,” anatero munthu wachikulireyo.

“Simukuona kuti wagwira chidolechi ndi m’manja mwakuda?” Mme Thénardier ataona kuti Cossette akulira anamutembenukira n’kuyamba kumutsira mphepo.

“Galu iwe, tatseka chikamwa chakocho ukundi-

nyansa!”

Munthu wachikulire uja anatuluka panja ndipo patanogodutsa kanthawi kochepe, anabwerera atatenga chinthu chinachake m’manja mwake. Anali atatenga chidole chokongola kwambiri chomwe chinkagulitsidwa ndi amalonda aja.

“Basi tonthola, eko chidole chako ichi,” anatero mokoma mtima bamboyo akupereka chidole chija kwa Cossette.

Mme Thénardier, Éponine ndi Azelma anangoti kukamwa yasa-a. Nawonso anthu omwe ankamwa komanso kudya pamalowo anangoti du-u, ena makapu a chakumwa ali pakamwa. Sankakhulupirira zimene zinkachitikazo.

“Kodi bambo ameneyu wachokera kuti?” ankadzifunsa choncho mumtima mwawo. “Akuoneka wochakachika, koma wakwanitsa kugula chidole chodula kwambiri ngati chimenechi.”

A Thénardier anapereka chipinda chabwino kwambiri kwa bamboyu. Tsiku lotsatira anamupatsa pepala atalembapo mtengo wake. Mtengowo unali kuwirikiza katatu mtengo womwe ankayenera kuwatchaja powasamalira usiku umodzi wokha. Atapereka pepalalo, ankayembekezera mitima ili m’mwamba. N’kutheka ankaganiza kuti munthuyo adandaula kuti ndalamayo yachuluka. Mwinanso ankaganiza kuti akhoza kuyamba kuchita makani kuti asalipire. Koma munthuyo sanadabwe chilionse moti anawafunsa kuti: “Kodi bizinezi imayenda bwanji ku Montfermeil kuno?”

“A-a, kuno kuli mavuto okhaokha, palibe chimene chimayenda,” anatero Mme Thénardier mofulumira. “Monga mukudziwira, dziko lino ndi losauka moti sitikudziwa kuti tikanatani zikanakhala kuti kunja kuno kulibe anthu

ochita bwino ngati inu. Tikapeza kandalama, konse kama-ngotheera kubweza ngongole. Mwachitsanzo, kuti mwana wadyera waima apoyo afike poti wakhuta, timalowetsa ndalama zochuluka zedi. Kuwonjezeranso pamenepo, tili-nso ndi ana athu awiri omwe timafunika kuwasamalira. Tikuona kuti mmene zinthu zikuvutiramu sitingakwanitse kumasamaliranso mwana wa munthu wina.”

“Ndiye bwanji zitachitika kuti munthu wina wadzi-pereka kuti atenge mwanayu n’kumakamusamalira,” anatero munthu wachikulireyo ataganizira kwa kanthawi.

“O-o, tingasangalale kwambiri,” anatero Mme Thé-nardier nkhope yawo ikuwala.

“Tadikirani kaye pang’ono,” anatero mwamuna wa-wo. “Ifeyo timamukonda kwambiri mwanayu. N’zoona kuti ndife amphawi, komanso tili ndi ngongole zambiri. Koma chikondi ndi champhamvu kuposa ndalama.”

“Komatu mutayankhula bwinobwino ndikhoza ku-kugwiritsani pakulu?” munthu wachikulireyo anatero aku-tulutsa waleti yake kuchokera m’thumba la chijasi chake.

“Mwinatu mutanena kuti mutipatsa 1,500 francs,” anatero Bambo Thénardier omwe anali atapanga kale ma-samu n’kuwonkhetsa ngongole zawo zonse.

Bambo wachikulireyo anatulutsadi ma 500-franc atatu n’kuwaika patebulo ndipo anamwetulira n’kunena kuti, “Ndiyetu ndipatseni mwanayo.”

Cossette atangobwera, munthu wachikulireyo ana-mupatsa zovala zatsopano kuti avale. Anamupatsa diresi yakuda, masokosi akuda, kansalu kozengereza m’khosi komanso nsapato. Patangotha ola limodzi, anthu a ku Mo-ntfermeil anaona bambo wachikulireyo akuyenda limodzi ndi mwanayu. Palibe amene ankadziwa kuti munthuyu ndi ndani. Komanso chifukwa choti mwanayo anali atanya-mula chidole chodula kwambiri komanso anali atavala

zovala zabwino, ambiri sanazindikire kuti ndi Cossette.

Mmenemu ndi mmene Cossette anavuukira m'mavuto omwe anakumana nawo kunyumba kwa a Thénardier. Iye sankadziwa kuti akupita kuti komanso kuti bambo amene anamutengayo ndi ndani. Anayenda njira yonse atagwira mwamphamvu dzanja la bamboyo. Pa moyo wake, aka kanali koyamba kuti amve kukhala wotezeka moti zinkangokhala ngati akuyenda ndi mngelo.

5

Mbali inayake ya kunja kwa mzinda wa Paris, Jean Valjean anaima panja pa nyumba inayake yaikulu. Nyumbayi inali yakale kwambiri komanso ya makoma odyekadyeka. Iye anatulutsa kiyi kuchokera m'thumba la chijasi chake chachikasu n'kumulowetsa pabowo lachitseko ndipo kenako analowa m'nyumbayo atanyamula Cossette. Cossette anali m'tulo ndipo anakwera naye masitepe mpaka m'chipinda china chomwe chinali pamwamba. Mwini wa nyumbayi ankapangitsa lendi zipinda kwa anthu osiyanasiyana ndipo bamboyu anayamba kukhala m'nyumbayi kungochokera pamene anathawa ku Montreuil. M'chipindacho munalibe zinthu zambiri. Munangokhala bedi, matiresi omwe anangoikidwa pansi, tebulo, mipando ingapo komanso chophikira. Chipindachi chinali ndi windo limodzi ndipo nyale ya mumsewu inkachititsa kuti m'chipindacho muziwala.

Valjean anagoneka Cossette pabedi. Kenako anayatsa kandulo n'kukhala pambali pa bedilo akuyang'ana mwanayo mwachidwi. Iye ankamva chisoni kuti Fantine anamwalira asanaone mwana wakeyu. Koma ankasangalala kuti wakwanitsa kumupulumutsa kuchokera ku banja lankhanza lija. Kenako anawerama n'kumukisa pachipumi mofanana ndi mmene anachitiranso mayi ake atamwalira miyezi 9 yapitayo.

Kutacha m'mawa, Cossette anatsegula maso ake

ndipo anadzambatuka pabedi paja n’kuyamba kuyankhula mokweza.

“Ndikubwera, Madame,” anatero tulo tili m’maso ndipo pamene ankatsegula maso ake, dzuwa lomwe linkalowera pawindo lija linayamba kumuthobwa m’maso.

Maso ake atangozolowera kuwalako anaona bambo wachikulire uja akumuyang’ana mwachifundo ndipo mti-ma wake unakhala m’malo.

“N’zoonadi eti!” anatero mosangalala Cossette. “Ndimaganiza kuti ndikungolota.”

Kenako anakumbatira chidole chake n’kuyamba kumufunsa Valjean mafunso ambirimбири.

“Mukufuna kuti ndisese m’nyumbamu?”

“Ayi,” anatero Valjean. “Sindikufuna kuti uzigwira ntchito iliyonse.”

Masiku anadutsa ndipo Cossette ankakhala mosangalala kwambiri. Nayenso Jean Valjean, anali wachimwemwe. Kwa zaka zoposa 25 ankangokhala yekhayekha ndipo palibe chomwe chinkamusangalatsa. Apa tsopano anali atapeza chifukwa chokhalira moyo. Iye anali asanakhalepo wosangalala chonchi. Ankati akayang’ana nkhope ya Cossette, yomwe inali yokongola kwambiri, ankamvetsa tanthauzo la mawu akuti *chikondi*.

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Atangothawa kuchokera ku Montreuil, Jean Valjean anatenga ndalama zake zonse kubanki n’kukazikwirira munkhalango ina yomwe inali pafupi ndi Montfermeil. Ngakhale anali wolemera, iye anasankha kumakhala m’nyumba yosalongosokayi chifukwa sankafuna kuti anthu azichita naye chidwi. Munthu yekhayo yemwe ankakhala naye pafupi anali mayi wina wachikulire, yemwe ankamu-

konzera m'nyumba komanso kumuphikira chakudya. Jean Valjean ankamupatsiratu mayiyu malipiro a miyezi 6 ndipo pamene ankamulemba ntchito, anamunamiza kuti iyeyo ndi munthu wochokera ku Spain. Anamunamizanso kuti Cossette ndi chidzukululu chake.

Masabata anadutsa ndipo anthu awiriwa ankakhala mosangalala. Valjean ankamuphunzitsa Cossette kuwere-nga komanso kulemba ndipo ankatha maola ambirimбири akumuyang'ana akamasewera ndi chidole chake chija. Cossette ankati kuchiveka kenako n'kuchivula. Ankachita zimenezi maulendo ambirimбири, koma Jean Valjean sankatopa kumuyang'ana. Valjean sankafuna kuti anthu amuone, choncho anasankha kuti asamayende masana. Nthawi zambiri ankapita kukawongola miyendo kwa maola angapo chakumadzulo. Pena ankapita yekha ndipo nthawi zina ankapita ndi Cossette. Akamayenda m'mise-wu yam'deralo, Valjean anakonda kupereka ndalama kwa anthu opemphapempha. Komabe, zimene ankachitazi sizinali zanzeru kwenikweni, chifukwa posakhalitsa anthu anayamba kumutchula kuti “wopemphapempha yemwe amapereka ndalama kwa anzake.”

Madzulo a tsiku lina, chakumapeto kwa nyengo yozizira, Valjean anapereka ndalama kwa wopemphapempha wina yemwe anakhala pafupi ndi nyali ya mumsewu panja pa tchalitchi. Wopemphapemphayo anayamba kumuyang'ana mwachidwi zedi ndipo kenako anaweramira pansi. Zomwe zinachitikazi zinamudzidzimutsa kwambiri Valjean ndipo atayang'ana nkhope ya wopemphapemphayo anaona kuti si munthu wachilendo.

“Ineyotu ndikuchita zinthu zopusa kwabasi,” anatero mumtima mwake pamene ankabwerera kunyumba kwake.

Madzulo a tsiku lotsatira anabwereranso kutchali-

tchi kuja ndipo anapeza wopemphapempha uja adakali pomwepo. Iye anakhala mofanana ndi mmene analili tsiku lapita lija komanso anali atavala zovala zomwezo. Ulendo uno, Valjean anayankhula naye pamene ankamupatsa ndalama. Wopemphapemphayo anaseka kwambiri komanso kumusereula ndipo Valjean atamuona bwinobwino, anabwerera kwawo akusangalala.

“Zikuoneka kuti dzulo lija ndinaona udyo,” anadziseka chamumtima Valjean. “Pali chinachake m’maso mwa wopemphapempha uja chomwe chinandikhumbutsa Javert. N’chiyani chinandipangitsa kuganiza zimene zija? Pamene ndayankhula naye madzulo ano, ndaona kuti sakufanana ndi wapolisi amene uja ngakhale pang’ono.”

Tsiku lina Valjean akuphunzitsa Cossette kuweringa m’nyumba mwake, anamva munthu wina akutsegula chitseko. Zimenezi zinali zachilendo kwambiri. Tikutero chifukwa mayi ankawagwirira ntchito zapakhomo uja, yemwenso ndi munthu yekhayo amene ankakhala m’nyumbayi, ankalowa m’chipinda chake mdima usanagwe. Choncho Valjean anazindikira kuti chilipochilipo moti anapereka chizindikiro kwa Cossette kuti akhale chete. Mmene phokoso linkamvekera, winawake ankakwera masitepe a m’kolido n’kumabwera kuchipinda chawocho. Kenako Valjean anathimitsa kandulo ndipo pamene ankati azikisa Cossette pachipumi, mapazi aja anasiya kumveka. Valjean sanasunthe. Anangokhala pansi pampando wake womwe unatsamira chitseko cholowera m’chipindachi ndipo sanataketake kapena kupuma. Patadutsa mphindi zingapo osamva kalikonse, anatembenuka ndipo anaona kuwala komwe kunkadutsa pakampata kena. Munthu winawake yemwe ananyamula kandulo anali ataima kuseri kwa chitsekocho.

Mphindi zingapo zinadutsa, ndipo kenako kuwala

kuja sikunaonekenso. Patapita nthawi Valjean anadzipo-nya pamatilesi ake, koma usiku umenewo sanagone ngakhale pang'ono. Kutacha m'mawa, pamene tulo tinkayamba kumubwerera, Valjean anamvanso mapazi akuyenda m'kolido muja. Nthawi yomweyo anadzuka n'kuthamangira kumene kunali kuchitseko kuja, ndipo anayamba kusuzumira pauna wolowetsera kiyi. Iye anadzidzimuka ataona munthu akukwera masitepe obwera kuchipinda chawocho. Munthuyo anali wantali ndipo anavala chijasi, komanso m'dzanja lake munalali ndodo.

Mtima wa Valjean unayamba kuthamanga ndipo thukuta linayamba kutsika.

“Ndi Javert,” anatero mumtima mwake.

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Tsiku limenelo linatha Valjean akukonzekera zoti athawe m'deralo. Zinali zoopsa kwambiri kuti iyeyo ndi Cossette agonenso usiku wina m'nyumbayi. Madzulo umenewo, anatuluka n'kukayang'anayang'ana kumsewu. Kunja kunangoti zi-i, komabe iye sankatha kuona bwinobwino m'malo ena momwe munalali mdima chifukwa cha mitengo. Ataona kuti kuli bwino, anabwereranso m'nyumba kuti akatenge Cossette yemwe ankamudikirira moleza mtima atakumbatira chidole chake.

“Tiye tinyamuke mwana wanga,” anatero Valjean.

Cossette anagwira dzanja la Valjean ndipo zimenezi zinamusangalatsa kwambiri Valjean. Awiriwa anadutsa m'mikwaso yosiyanasiyana atagwirana manja. Nthawi zamбири ankayenda m'mbali mwa mipanda momwe munkakhala mdima. Ankachita zimenezi kuti anthu asawaone. Atayenda kamtunda ndithu, analimba mtima kuti palibe amene akuwatsatira moti anayamba kuyenda momasuka.

Koma pamene belu la tchalitchi cha m'tauniyo linkalira, cha m'ma 11 koloko usiku, anamva phokoso linalake lomwe linawadzidzimutsa. Pafupi ndi nyali ina yamumsewu, anaona amuna 4 akubwera. Valjean anagwira mwamphamvu mkono wa Cossette n'kuyamba kuyenda mofulumira. Ankati akayenda pang'ono, ankaima kaye pamdima n'kuyang'ana kumbuyo. Anthu anayi aja ankawatsatirabe. Valjean ankatha kuona nkhope zawo m'kuwala kwa mwezi womwe unali usikuwo ndipo sanakaikire kuti mmodzi wa iwo anali Insipekita Javert.

Pofika tsopano, Cossette anali atatoperatu. Valjean anamunyamula n'kuyamba kuthamanga naye m'mikwaso ina yomwe m'mbali mwake munamangidwa kampanda ka miyala kolekeza m'chiuno. Kenako anatulukira pamalo enaake pomwe panali mlatho. Atafika kumbali ina ya mtsinjewo, anabisala penapake n'kuyamba kuyang'ana kumene kunkachokera anthu aja ndipo anaona anthu 4 akubwera chapatali mbali ina ya mtsinje.

Valjean anayamba kuyenda pang'onopang'ono akuganiza kuti adani akewo samupezanso. Anayenda m'kanjira kaja kufikira pamene anatulukira mumsewu wina womwe unkaoneka kuti ukutuluka m'tauniyo. Anapitirizabe kuyenda mumsewuwo mpaka pamene anazindikira kuti msewuwo wafika pamapeto. Kutsogolo kwake kunali mpanda wautali. Pamene ankatembenuka kuti azibwerera, anaona anthu aja akubwera chapatali. Koma ulendo uno sanalinso anthu 4. N'kutheka kuti analipo 7 kapena 8 ndipo ankayenda pang'onopang'ono molunjika kumene anali.

Valjean anasokonezeka kwambiri ndipo anayesetsa kuyang'ana mpita wothawira koma sanaupeze. Mumsewu ankayendawo, mbali imodzi kunali makoma a nyumba zazitali. Nyumbayi inali ndi zitseko komanso mawindo

okhala ndi zitsulo. Kumbali inayi kunali khoma lalitali kwambiri kuposa mtengo. Akanakhala kuti anali yekha, akanatha kukwera mosavuta khoma limeneli. Koma zinali zosatheka kuti akwere limodzi ndi Cossette. Kenako, anapeza nzeru ina. Anathamanga n’kupita pamene panali nyali ya mumsewu ndipo anasolola waya yemwe anali pakabokosi kamene kanali papholo lomwe panali nyaliyo. Kenako anabwereranso pamene panali Cossette n’kukamumanga wayayo m’chiuno. Atatero anayamba kukwera mpanda uja movutikira kwambiri, mwana uja ali kumbuyo kwake. Atangofika pamwamba anaona kuti kuseri kwake kunali mtengo ndipo anakweza Cossette mumtengomo. Pamene ankachoka pampandapo, anthu aja anatulukira.

“Ayenera sali kutali!” Valjean anamva mawu a Javert kuseri kwa mpanda kuja. “Sizingatheke kuti athawe chifukwa palibe kumene angalowere.”

Apolisiwo anayamba kufufuza paliponse koma sanapeze munthu. Kenako anatopa ndi kufufuza ndipo anabwerera kumene anachokera. Valjean anakumbatira Cossette mwamphamvu podziwa kuti apulumuka.

5

Usiku wina pambuyo pa nkondo ya ku Waterloo²⁶, mu June 1815, mbava ina inkazungulirazungulira kumalo amene nkondoyi inachitikira. Cholinga chake chinali kuba ndalama komanso zinthu zamtengo wapatali kuchokera kwa asilikali akufa omwe anali pamalowo. Mbavayi ili mkati mochita zimenezi, inaona dzanja lina lomwe linali pachimulu cha matupi a anthu komanso mahatchi akufa. Chomwe chinakola chidwi chake chinali mphete yomwe inkawala ndi mwezi usikuwo ndipo mbavayi itayandikira, inaona kuti inali mphete yagolide. Mosachedwachedwa inachotsa mpheteyo mwankhanza kwambiri ndipo pame ne inkati izinyamuka, inangozindikira dzanja lija lagwira jekete yake. Nthawi yomweyo mbavayo inasolola mwini dzanjalo kuchokera pachimulu cha anthu akufa chija ndipo inazindikira kuti yapulumutsa msilikali wa dziko la France. Munthuyo anali atavulala kwambiri m'mutu.

“Zikomo kwambiri,” anatero msilikaliyo. “Mwapulumutsa moyo wanga. Dzina lanu ndi ndani?”

“Thénardier,” inatero mbavayo.

“Sindidzaiwala dzina limenelo,” anatero msilikaliyo. “Komanso nanu musadzaiwale dzina langa. Dzina langa ndi Pontmercy²⁷.”

Popanda kunena chilichonse, mbavayo inavulanso wotchi yomwe inali mumkono wa munthuyo n'kumupisanso m'matumba n'kupeza waleti ndipo

inachoka pamalowo chothawa n’kuzimiririka mumdima.

Georges²⁸ Pontmercy anali pabanja ndipo anali ndi mwana wamwamuna. Iye anapulumuka pa nkondo ya ku Waterloo, koma mwatsoka, chaka chomwecho mkazi wake anamwalira. Apongozi ake aamuna, M. Gillenormand²⁹, anali munthu wovuta kwambiri moti sankamwerana nawo madzi ngakhale pang’ono. M. Gillenormand ankadana ndi aliynse amene ankakonda Napoleon³⁰ moti ankaona kuti Pontmercy komanso kufufuza njira zoti awadyere apongozi akewo. Ndiye mwana wawo wamkazi atangomwalira, M. Gillenormand anapita kwa Pontmercy n’kumupatsa mwayi womwe sakanaukana.

“Iweyo matumba ako onse ndi obooka,” anatero M. Gillenormand. “Ngati ukufuna kuti uzikhalabe ndi mwana wako, Marius³¹, ukamachoka pano sindikupatsa ngakhale wamtambala. Koma ngati utandipatsa mwanayu, n’kundi lonjeza kuti sindidzakuonananso ukubwera pakhomo pano, ndikupatsa ndalama zankhaninkhani komanso ndizisamalira mwanayu.”

Popeza Pontmercy ankafuna kuti mwana wake asakule movutika, anapereka mwanayo kwa M. Gillenormand ngakhale kuti anachita zimenezi mokakamizika kwambiri. Kungochokera nthawi imeneyo, Pontmercy sanaonanenso ndi mwana wake kapena apongozi akewo.

Marius anakula ndi agogo akewa ndipo bambo ake sankawadziwa. M. Gillenormand ankamuuzza kuti bambo ake ndi munthu wosalongosoka. Ankamuuzanso kuti bambo akewo anali msilikali wochakachika yemwe ankangokhalira kumwa mowa ndipo anamuthawa mayi ake atangomwalira. Kwa zaka zambiri, Marius ankakhulupirira zimenezi. Koma atangokwanitsa zaka 17, anadziwa zoonza zake. Anazindikira kuti bambo ake, omwe anali msilikali wanzeru yemwe ankamenya nkondo limodzi

ndi Napoleon ku Waterloo, ankamukonda kwambiri komanso anakonda malemu mayi ake kuposa aliyense. Popanda kuuza agogo ake, Marius anayamba kufufuza bambo ake mpaka anadziwa kumene ankakhala. Ulendo wina anaganiza zopita kukawaona. Koma mwatsoka, ankapeza bambo akewo atangomwalira kumene. Georges Pontmercy, anafa ali munthu wosauka kwambiri, ndipo sanamusiire kalikonse Marius, kupatulapo kakalata kakan'ono.

Kalata yopita kwa mwana wanga.

Msilikali wina anandipulumutsa nditatsala pang'ono kufa ku Waterloo. Dzina la munthu ameneyu ndi Thénardier. Ndinamva zoti pakatipa anali ndi malo ofikira alendo m'mudzi wa Montfermeil, womwe suli kutali ndi mzinda wa Paris. Ngati utadzakumana naye, chonde udzamuthandize mulimonse mmene ungathere.

Maliro ataikidwa, Marius anabwereranso ku Paris. Koma maulendo ambirimбири, ankapita kumene bambo ake anaikidwa popanda kuuza agogo ake. Ndiye tsiku lina, agogo akewo anatulukira zimenezi ndipo anamukalipira koopsa. Mkanganowo unafika poipa kwambiri moti M. Gillenormand anamuthamangitsa Marius pakhomo pawo.

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Kwa zaka zitatu zotsatira, Marius ankakhala m'chipinda china chaching'ono chomwe chinali m'nyumba inayake yakale kwambiri kumapeto kwa mzinda wa Paris. Chipinda chimenechi n'chimene Valjean ndi Cossette ankakhala zaka 8 zapitazo. Marius anali atamaliza maphunziro ake a zamalamulo n'kuyamba kugwira ntchito yolembe madikishonale. Sikuti ankapeza ndalama zambiri pogwira ntchitoyi, komabe ankapeza kenakake komwe kankakwa-

nira kulipira lendi komanso kugulira zakudya. Nthawi zam-biri ankatsala ndi ndalama zochepa moti sankatha ndi kugula zovala zomwe. Koma Marius ankasangalala kuti pa nthawi yonse analibe ngongole iliyonse.

Agogo ake aja ankadziwa kuti akukhala movutika kwambiri moti nthawi zina ankamutumizira ndalama. Koma Marius sankafuna kulandira chilichonse chochokera kwa agogo akewo moti ankazibweza ndalamazo. Anka-chita zimenezi chifukwa mtima ankamuwawa kwambiri akaganizira nkhanza zomwe agogo akewo anawachita bambo ake, omwe anamwalira ali pa umphawi wadzaoneni. Ngakhale ankabweza ndalamazi, moyo umene ankakhala unali wolimba kwambiri. Koma ngakhale ankavutika kupeza ndalama zokwanira, iye sanaiwale zimene bambo ake anamuuzza kuti adzachite. Ankafunitsitsa kudzakumana ndi a Thénardier, omwe anapulumutsa moyo wa bambo ake n'kuwathandiza mmene akanathera.

Marius anali mnyamata wooneka bwino kwambiri, koma vuto linali lakuti anali wamanyazi. Nthawi zam-biri atsikana ankamuyang'ana ndi diso lachikondi kapena kumamudutsadutsa kwinaku akumumwetulira. Akawaona ankathawa n'kukabisala. Iye ankaganiza kuti atsikanawo akuyang'ana zovala zake zofwifwa. Koma sikuti atsikanawo ankayang'ana zimenezo. Zikuoneka kuti ankakopeka ndi maonekedwe ake, kungoti Marius sanazindikire zimenezi. Mapeto ake, iye sanakhalepo ndi chibwenzi ngakhale kamodzi moti mabwenzi ake anali mabuku basi.

“Usamangokhala wekhawekha iwe,” anatero mnzake wina dzina lake Enjolras³². “Uziwayawayako mumsewumu kuti atsikana azikuona. Kodi sudziwa kuti atsikana akhoza kukuthandiza kuti uzisangalala! Ngati utapitiriza kuchita zimenezi mapeto ake udzakhala wansembe!”

Marius analibe nazo ntchito zimene mnzakeyu

ankanena, ndipo iye anapitiriza kugwira ntchito komanso kuwerenga mabuku ake.

Ndiye tsiku lina akuyenda mbali ina ya mzindawo, Marius anaona bambo wina wachikulire ali limodzi ndi mwana wake mugaladeni ya Luxembourg³³. Nthawi zonse anthu awiriwa ankakhala limodzi pampando wina m'galadenimo. Bamboyo, yemwe anali ndi zaka za m'ma 60, anali ndi imvi ndipo anali ndi nkhope ya ubwenzi. Mtsikanayo, yemwe anali ndi zaka za m'ma 13 kapena 14, nthawi zonse ankavala diresi yakuda yomwe inali yosalongosoka. Mtsikanayo anali woonda komanso wosaoneka bwino kwenikweni. Komabe, Marius anaona kuti anali ndi maso okongola kwambiri.

Akapita kukawongola miyendo, nthawi zonse Marius ankaona anthuwa atakhala pampando uja. Ngakhale ankachita nawo chidwi kwambiri, zikuoneka kuti anthuwo sankamuona. Mtsikanayo anali wokonda zoyankhulayankhula, pomwe bambowo ankangokhala phe-e akumuyang'ana mwana wawoyo mwachikondi, kwinaku akumumwetulira.

Minzake uja, Enjolras anali ataonaponso bambo ndi mwana wakeyu.

“Kodi umadziwa mayina awo?”

“Ayi, komabe kuti usavutike kwambiri, ukhoza kumangotchula bamboyo kuti M. Leblanc³⁴ chifukwa cha imvi zili kumutuzo ndipo mwana wawoyo ukhoza kumangomutchula kuti Mlle Lanoire³⁵ chifukwa cha diresi lakuda amavalalo.”

* * *

Kwa chaka chathunthu, Marius ankaona bambo wachikulire ndi mwana wakeyo mugaladeni ija. Kenako, pa-

chifukwa chosadziwika bwino, Marius anangosiya kupitako. Pamene ankaganiza zopitakonso, patatha miyezi 6, anaonanso bambo ndi mwana wake uja atakhala pamalo omwe aja. Koma ulendo uno panachitika chinachake chochititsa chidwi. Bamboyo ankaonekabe mmene analili. Koma kamtsikana kaja kanali katayamba kuoneka bwino kwambiri. Diresi yake yosasangalatsa ija inali italowedwa m'malo ndi diresi yakuda yokongola kwambiri. Tsitsi lake labulauni linkangowonjezera kukongola kwake ndipo ngakhale khungu lake linali litasalala kwambiri. Akamayang'ana ndi timaso take tokongola tija komanso akamamwetulira, nkhope yake inkangooneka ngati kuwala kosalgalatsa kwa dzuwa la m'mawa.

Marius anadutsa pafupi ndi benchi yomwe anakhala ija. Atafika penapake anabwerera ndipo pamene ankadutsa ulendo umenewu, mtsikanayo anamuyang'ana. Koma Marius sanamuone ndipo anangodutsa akuganizira zinthu zina. Kwa masiku angapo otsatira, Marius ankadutsa pamalowa koma sankayerekeza kuwayang'ana ngakhale pang'ono. Kenako tsiku lina, pamene ankadutsanso, akuganizira zinthu zina, mtsikanayo anamuyang'ananso ndipo maso awo anakumana. Atangophana maso, mtsikanayo anayang'ana kumbali ndipo Marius anapitirizabe kuyenda koma akuoneka kuti wabalalika. Iye ankadziwa kuti moyo wake wasintha. Momwe anamvera ataphana maso ndi mtsikanayo zinali zachilendo kwambiri ndipo anazindikira kuti mtsikanayo samangomuyang'ana mopanda chifukwa ngati mmene mwana amayang'anira munthu kuti angomuona basi. Kunali kuyang'ana koposa pamenepo. Koma kaya ankayang'ana pazifukwa zANJI, Marius anakhudzidwa kwambiri ndipo kungochokera nthawi imeneyo, moyo wake unasinthiratu.

Tsiku lotsatira, Marius anapitanso kugaladeniko

atavala zovala zomwe ankazidalira. Iye ankayenda pang'onopang'ono, akumaima mwa apa ndi apo kuti aone abakha am'madzi. Kenako anayamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali mpando umene Mlle Lanoire ndi bambo ake aja ankakonda kukhala. Mtsikanayo ankayankhula chapansipansi ndi bambo ake ndipo Marius ankatha kumva timawu take tosangalatsa. Popanda kuganiza, anangopezeka kuti waima n'kutembenukanso ndipo anayamba kuloweranso kumene kunakhala bambo ndi mwana wakeyo. Pa nthawi imeneyi, nkhope yake inali itafiiriratu ndipo mtima wake unkagogoda chifuwa chake mwamphamvu kwambiri. Ulendo umenewu ankadziwa kuti mtsikanayo akuyang'ana mwachidwi. Koma sanabwererensu ulendo wachitatu. Iye anangokhala pabENCHI ina moyang'anizana ndi benchi yomwe anthuwo anakhala. PabENCHIyi, Marius ankatha kuona mtsikanayo ndi pakona pa diso lake.

Kunena zoonaa mtsikanayo ankaoneka bwino kwambiri moti Marius anapumira m'mwamba ndipo kenako anaimirira n'kuyamba kulowera komweko kuti akadutseenso ulendo wachitatu. Koma ulendo uno, anaima mwadzidzidzi. Iye anakumbukira kuti mtsikanayo ali limodzi ndi bambo ake achikulire aja. Choncho anayamba kudzi funsa kuti, kodi bambowo aziganiza zotani akaona mnyamata wachilendo akumangodutsadutsa kutsogolo kwa benchi yawo? Maganizowa anamufooketsa kwambiri moti anatembenuka n'kumapita kwawo.

Tsiku lotsatira m'mawa, Marius anabweranso ndipo anakhala pabENCHI lija kwa tsiku lonse. Iye ankanamizira kuwerenga buku ndipo sanayerekeze kuyandikira kumene kunali benchi yomwe mtsikana ndi bambo ake aja anakhala. Marius anachita zimenezi kwa milungu iwiri yathunthu. Chakumapeto kwa mlungu wachiwiri, pamene ana-

ona mtsikana uja ndi bambo ake akuyenda molunjika kumene anakhala. Nthawi yomweyo anatseka buku lake n'kuyamba kuwayang'ana. Koma ataona kuti aonekera kwambiri, anatsegulanso buku lija n'kumanamizira kuweringa. Kenako anangozindikira anthu aja afika ndipo anakweza maso ake n'kuyang'ana mtsikana uja. Thupi lake linangoti zi-i pamene anaona mtsikanayo akumuyang'ana mwachikondi ndi timaso take tokongola tija.

Marius anapitirizabe kuyang'ana mtsikanayo mpaka pamene anazimirika ndipo kenako anadzuka n'kuyamba kuzungulirazungulira m'galadenimo akuseka komanso kudziyankhulira yekha. Koma kenako maganizo ena anamubwerera. Iye anaona kuti atayamba kuyenda molo-wera kumene bambo ndi mwana wake uja analowera, akhoza kukumana nawonso. Nthawi yomweyo anakhoma ndawala n'kuyamba kuwatsatira. Koma m'malo mokumana ndi anthu ankafunawo, Marius anakumana ndi mnzake uja, Enjolras, yemwe anamuitanira chakudya.

Mwezi wotsatira, Marius ankapita kugaladeni ya Luxembourg tsiku lililonse. Iye ankasangalala kwambiri akaganizira kuti ulendo wapita, mtsikana uja anamumwetulira mwachikondi. Koma Marius anali wamanyazi kwambiri moti sankadziwa choti achite. Pa tsikuli sanayerekeze kudutsa pafupi ndi benchi ija chifukwa cha manyazi komanso chifukwa choti sankafuna kuti bambo aja azindikire kuti wayamba kudyerera maso pa mwana wawo. Nthawi zina ankatha kuima kwa 30 minitsi pamalo omwe ankadziwa kuti bambowo samuona ndipo ankangoti maso dwi-i pa mtsikanayo. Mtsikanayo akamuona, nayenso ankayamba kumwetulira mwachikondi.

Koma kenako M. Leblanc anazindikira kuti pali munthu wina yemwe akuchita nawo chidwi kwambiri. Choncho akangoona Marius akubwera, ankatengana ndi

mwana wawoyo n’kumapita kwawo. Nthawi zina anka-ngochooka n’kupita pa benchi ina kuti aone ngati atawatsatire. Marius sanazindikire zimenezi ndipo anangopeze-ka kuti wawatsatiranso komweko. M. Leblanc ataona zimenezi, anayamba kumukaikira moti anasiya kubwera-bwera kugaladeniyo. Akati abwera, sankatenga mwana wawo uja. Ndiyeno munthu amene ankamuchititsa chidwi atasiya kubwera kugaladeniko, nayenso Marius anadula phazi ndipo pamenepo m’pamene analakwitsa kwambiri chifukwa M. Leblanc anazindikira kuti alidi ndi zolinga zoipa.

Marius anali atagweratu m’chikondi moti sankaganiza bwinobwino ndipo chikondi chake chinkakula tsiku ndi tsiku. Ngakhale akagona usiku ankangokhalira kulota za iye. Tsiku lina atapitanso kugaladeni kuja ndipo anatola kansalu pabenchu yomwe M. Leblanc ndi mwana wawo uja ankakhala. Kanali kansalu koyera ndipo pakona ya kansaluko panalembedwa kuti *U.F.*

“Ursula³⁶,” anatero Marius potchula dzina loyamba limene linabwera m’mutu mwake atangoona zilembozo. “Ndi dzina labwino bwanji!”

Iye anakisa kansaluko ndipo pochita zimenezi anamva kafungo kake kabwino, kenako anakaika pachifuwa pake. Madzulo kukada ankakaika pansu pa pilo wake.

“Kukhala ndi kansalu kameneka n’chimodzimidzi kukhala naye limodzi!” ankadziuza choncho Marius.

Koma chilungamo chake chinali chakuti kansaluko anagwetsa anali M. Leblanc, kungoti Marius sankadziwa zimenezi. Ndiye kungochokera pamene anatola kansaluko, Marius sankapita kugaladeni kuja osakatenga. Nthawi zambiri ankakagwira m’manja n’kumakakisa komanso kukaika pachifuwa pake. Akamachita zimenezi, mtsikana uja ankangomuyang’ana ndipo sankamvetsa chifukwa

chake akuchita zimenezo moti anayamba kudabwa naye.

“Ndi mtsikana wabwino kwambiri!” anatero Marius chapansipansi.

Kenako Marius anasiya kukhutira ndi kungofuna kudziwa dzina la mtsikanayo, iye ankafuna kudziwa kumene ankakhala. Choncho anayamba kufufuza ndipo posakhalitsa anapeza kuti ankakhala m’kanyumba kena kakang’ono komwe kanali kumapeto kwa rue de l’Ouest³⁷. Choncho anthuwa akamachoka kugaladeni kuja, Marius ankawatsatira chapatali mpaka kukafika kwawo. Koma madzulo a tsiku lina, Marius anaiwala zoti akuwalondola mwachinsinsi moti anamutsatira mpaka kukalowa m’nyumba. Atafika m’kolido ya nyumba ija anakumana ndi munthu yemwe ankayang’anira nyumbayo. Chifukwa cha zimene anachita, munthuyo anayamba kumukaikira. Ankaganiza kuti ndi wapolisi kapena kazitape, choncho atafunsidwa zokhudza mtsikana uja, anakana kumuuza chilichonse.

Tsiku lotsatira, M. Leblanc ndi mwana wawoyo sanapite kugaladeni kuja. Iwo sanapite kwa sabata yathunthu ndipo Marius anayamba kuda nkhwawa. Tsiku lilionse ankapita kukaima panja pa nyumba ija n’kumayang’anitsitsa windo la nyumbayo. Nthawi zina ankatha kuona chithunzithunzi cha munthu akudutsa kutsogolo kwa nyali ndipo mtima wake unkayamba kugunda mwamphamvu.

Marius anapitirizabe kupita kunyumbako ndipo anadabwa kuti pa tsiku la 8 sanaonenso kuwala kwa nyali pawindo lija. Mtima wake unayamba kumupweteka moti kenako anabwerera kwawo ali wokhumudwa. Tsiku lotsatira, bambo ndi mwana wake uja sanapitenso kugaladeni kuja moti Marius anapitanso kunyumba kuja. Koma ulendo unonso nyale sinawalenso ndipo Marius anaganiza

zopita kukagogoda pakhomo ndipo anakumananso ndi woyang'anira nyumba uja.

“Kodi bambo wachikulire uja akukhalabe m'nyumbayi?” anafunsa Marius.

“Ayi, wasamuka.”

Mtima unamuwawa kwambiri atamva mawu amenewa moti anangotsala pang'ono kuyamba kulira. Kenako misozi italengeza m'maso mwake anati, “Asamuka liti?”

“Dzulo.”

“Mukudziwa kumene asamukira?”

“Ayi, sindikudziwa.”

“Sanakusiireni ngakhale adiresi ya kumene akupita?”

Woyang'anira nyumba uja anakumbukira kuti Marius ndi amene anabwera kunyumbaku sabata yatha. Choncho anamuponyera diso loopsa n'kumuuza kuti, “Kodi iwe, ndiwe wapolisi eti?”

Atangonena mawu amenewa, anamenyetsa chitseko n'kulowa m'kati ndipo anamusiya Marius akufuna kulira.

7

Nyengo yotentha inabwera n’kupita ndipo kenako nyengo yozizira inafika koma Marius sanakumanenso ndi M. Leblanc kapena “Ursula.” Iye anawafufuza paliponse, koma sanawapeze. Kenako anayamba kumangoyendayenda mumsewu ngati galu wopanda mbuyake. Nthawi zonse ankayenda nkhope yake itagwa. Popanda “Ursula,” moyo wake unali wopanda tanthauzo, ntchito inkamunyansa, mwina tingoti chilichonse chinkamubowa.

“Ndikanadziwa sindikanawatsatira mpaka kwawo,” ankatero Marius ponong’oneza bondo. “Ndinkasangalala kwambiri kuona nkhope yake. Koma tsopano chifukwa cha kupusa kwanga, ndatsinira mafulufute ku una.”

Enjolras komanso anzake ena anayesetsa kumulimbikitsa pomutenga popita konjoya, koma nthawi zonse ankawasiya anzakewo komweko n’kumangoyendayenda m’misewu ya Paris ngati wopenga.

Ndiyeno madzulo a tsiku lina mu February, Marius anangonyamuka kwawo n’kumangoyendayenda m’tauni. Pamene ankadutsa mumsewu wina, atsikana awiri ovala nsanza anadutsa pafupi naye akuthamanga. Mmodzi wa atsikanawa anali wantali ndipo winayo ankaoneka kuti ndi mng’ono wake. Atamva zimene atsikanawo ankanena, Marius anazindikira kuti akuthawa apolisi. Marius anangoima n’kumawayang’ana mpaka pamene anabisika ndi makoma a nyumba ina. Ataponya maso n’kuyang’ana

pamene atsikana aja anadutsa anaona kaphukusi kali pansi.

Iye anazindikira kuti atsikana aja ndi amene agwetse kaphukusiko moti anakatola n’kuyamba kuwathamangira. Koma anachedwa chifukwa atsikanawo anali atapita. Iye anapumira m’mwamba n’kumabwerera kwawo.

Atafika kunyumba, anatenga kaphukusi kaja n’kukamasula ndipo anapeza kuti mkati mwake munali makalata 4, ndipo onse ankapita kwa anthu osiyana. Mapepala omwe analemba makalatawo ankanunkha fodya wachingambwe. Marius ankafuna kudziwa kuti makalatawo akunena zotani moti anayamba kuwawerenga. Makalata onsewo anali opempha chithandizo kwa anthu ochita bwino. Koma panali chinthu chimodzi chomwe chinali chodabwitsa ndi makalatawa: Ngakhale ankapita kwa anthu osiyana, makalatawo analembedwa papepala lofanana komanso analembedwa ndi munthu mmodzi. Anazindikiranso kuti munthu amene ankalemba makalatawo analakwitsa malo ofanana m’makalata onse. Atamaliza kuwerenga anawabwezeretsanso m’chimake n’kuwaponyera penapake ndipo kenako anapita kukagona.

M’mawa wa tsiku lotsatira, pamene ankagwira ntchito yake yolembe mabuku, Marius anamva kugogoda.

“Lowani,” anatero Marius akuyembekezera kuona Mme Bougon³⁸, omwe ankayanganira nyumba imene ankakhalayo. Koma mawu amene anamva panjapo akuti, “Pepani kwambiri Monsieur, mwati bwani?” sanali a Mme Bougon. Mawuwo ankamveka ngati a mzimayi wokalamba kwambiri. Marius anatembenuka n’kuyang’ana kukhomo kuja ndipo anaona mtsikana woonda atavala siketi ndi tisheti. Mtsikanayo ankaoneka kuti wazizidwa kwambiri ndipo kungoona mmene thupi lake linalili, ankangokhala ngati akudwala. Pamene mtsikanayo anka-

yankhulanso, Marius anaona kuti anali ndi magweru. Ngakhale nkhope yake inkaoneka kuti yadutsa mikwi-ngwirima yambiri, panali timbali tina tomwe tinatsala ndi kukongola kwa chitsikana. Kukongola kwake kunali kofanana ndi kuwala komwe kumaonekera kumwamba kuka-kunga mitambo. Mtsikanayu ayenera anali ndi zaka 16. Marius anadzuka pampando paja ndipo atamuyang'anitsitsa anazindikira kuti n'kutheka anamuonapo malo ena-ake.

“Ndikuthandizeni bwanji, Mademoiselle?” anafunsa Marius.

“Anandituma kuti ndidzakupatsireni kalata, M. Marius.”

Marius analandira kalatayo n'kuitambasula.

M'bale wanga wokondedwa,

Ndalemba kalatayi pofuna kukuthokoza chifukwa cha zimene munatichitira miyezi 6 yapitayo. Kunena zoo-na munatithandiza kwambiri potiripirira ndalama yalendi ndipo sitidzaiwala zomwe munachitazi. Komabe, panopa tapanikizikanso chifukwa mkazi wanga akudwala kwa-mbiri komanso takhala tikugona nayo kwa masiku 4. Chonde, Monsieur, tisonyezeninso chifundo ngati mmene munachitira m'mbuyomo. Mukhoza kumupatsira mwana wa-nyago kangachepe kamene muli nako.

*Ndine wanu, Jondrette.*³⁹

Marius anazindikira kuti munthu amene analemba kalatayo ndi yemweyo amene analemba makalata 4 anatola aja. Anatulukira zimenezi ataona pepala lachikasu lomwe anagwiritsira ntchito polemba kalatayo komanso fungo lachingambwe lomwe linkatuluka papepalalo. Tsopano anali ndi makalata 5 ochokera kwa munthu mmodzi. Munthu ameneyu anali bambo yemwe ankakhala khomo lotsatira.

Banjali linakhala m’nyumbayi kwa miyezi yambiri, koma zikuoneka kuti Marius sankawasamala kwenikweni. Chimenechi n’chifukwa chake analephera kuzindikira ana pamene ankathawa apolisi kumsewu kuja. Marius anazindikira kuti banjali linkalemba makalata n’kumawatumiza kwa anthu achifundo n’cholinga choti awapatse ndalama.

Marius atamaliza kuwerenga kalatayo anakweza maso ake ndipo anaona mtsikana uja akuyendayenda m’nyumbamo mopanda mantha. Mtsikanayo ankayang’ana zinthu zomwe zinali m’nyumbamo. Ndiyeno mtsikanayo anaona mabuku omwe anali padesiki lomwe Marius ankagwirirapo ntchito ndipo anayamba kuyenda molowera komweko.

“Mabuku,” anatero mtsikanayo, ndipo kenako anawonjezera kuti, “Inetu ndimadziwa kuwerenga komanso kulemba. Dikirani ndikusonyezeni.”

Kenako anatola cholemba n’kulemba pakapepala kena kuti: *Samalani! Apolisi akubwera!* Kenako anatenga pepalalo n’kumuonetsa Marius ndipo pachifukwa chosadzizika bwino, anayamba kumuyang’anana Marius m’maso. Kenako ananena mwamanyazi kuti: “Kodi mumadziwa kuti ndinu wooneka bwino?”

Atanena zimenezi anayamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali Marius ndipo posakhalitsa anamukoleka dzanja m’khosi n’kunena kuti, “Ndikudziwa kuti simukundidziwa bwinobwino. Koma ine ndimakudziwani. Ndimakuonani mukamachoka pakhomo pano, komanso ndimakuonani mukamayendayenda mumsewu mukuoneka wokhumudwa.”

Marius anadabwa kwambiri ndi zimene mtsikanayo anamuuza moti anachotsa mofulumira dzanja la mtsikanayo m’khosi mwake n’kunena kuti, “Mademoiselle, ndikuganiza kuti ndili ndi katundu wanu.” Kenako anatola

kaphukusi ka makalata kaja n’kumupatsa.

Mtsikanayo anasangalala kwambiri ataona kaphukusiko ndipo anati, “Takhala tikusakasaka makalata amenewa paliponse! Koma mwadziwa bwanji kuti ndi anga? O-o, mwaona kalembedwe kake. Kodi ndinu amene ndinakuonani tikuthawa apolisi dzulo lija eti?”

Pamene ankayankhula mosangalala chonchi, anatega kalata imodzi. “A-a, kalata iyi ndi ya bambo wina wachikulire amene amapita kutchalitchi tsiku lililonse. Ngati nditafulumira ndikhoza kukakumana naye. Mwina akhoza kukandipatsa kangachepe kotigulire chakudya. Takhala tikugona nayo kwa masiku atatu . . .”

Marius anamva chisoni ndi zimenezi ndipo anatulutsa 5 francs n’kumupatsa.

“Mwagwira ntchitotu pamenepa!” anatero mtsikanayo akulandira ndalamazo. “Ndalama imeneyi ndikhoza kugulira chakudya cha masiku awiri. Tathokoza kwambiri, Monsieur.”

Atangonena mawu amenewa anaseka n’kuyamba kuyenda molowera kukhomo kuja. Akuyenda anaona buledi wouma patebulo ndipo anamutola n’kuponyera mkamwa ndipo anatuluka akutafuna.

* * *

Pofika pa nthawi, Marius anali atakhala zaka 5 popanda kupeza ndalama zokwanira, koma sikuti ankavutika kwambiri. Ndiyeno atangomaliza kucheza ndi mtsikana uja, anamvetsa kuti umphawi weniweni n’chiyani. Chipinda chake ndi chipinda cha aneba ake osaukawo chinangosiyanitsidwa ndi kakhoma koonda kwambiri. Iye anali atawaonapo anthuwa, koma analibe nawo chidwi kwenikweni, ndipo zimenezi zinachititsa kuti ayambe kudzi-

imba mlandu.

“Zikanakhala kuti anali ndi neba wina wabwino,” anatero mumtima mwake, “mwinatu bwenzi atazindikira mavuto awo n’kuwathandiza.”

Pamene Marius ankaganizira zimenezi, anayamba kuyang’ana khoma loonda lomwe linali pakati pa chipinda chake ndi cha aneba akewo. Chapamwamba pa khomali, kufupi ndi denga, anaona kuti kunali mpata waukulu woti munthu akanatha kulowetsa mutu.

“Bwanji ndisuzumire kuti ndione mmene amakhallira?” anatero Marius mumtima mwake. “Ndikamvetsa mavuto awo m’pamene ndingadziwe mmene ndingawathandizire.”

Marius anakwera pakabati yake, n’kuyamba kusuzumira m’nyumba mwa aneba akewo kudzera pabowo lija.

Nyumba ya a Jondrettes inali ya uve woopsa ndipo munkatuluka fungo lochititsa chizungulire. M’nyumbamo munali mpando umodzi wokha, womwenso unali wachikalekale kwambiri. Munalinso mbale zobenthukabenthuka komanso mabedi awiri akutha. Pakati pa mabediwa panali malo omwe anakolezapo. Atamwazamwaza maso, anaona bambo wandevu zazitali za imvi. Bamboyo anakhala patebulo n’kumalemba kalata kwinaku akusuta fodya pogwiritsa ntchito kaliwo. M’chipindacho munalinso mzimayi wokula thupi yemwenso anali ndi tsitsi la imvi lomwe linkaoneka kuti poyamba linali lofiira. Mayiyo anakhala pambali pa moto ndipo mwana wawo, yemwe anali woonda kwambiri anakhala pabedi n’kumaothera moto.

Marius anakhumudwa kwambiri ndi zimene anaoona. Kenako anaganiza zoti atsike ndipo pamene ankati azichotsa mutu wake pabowo lija, anamva khomo la a

Jondrettes likutsegulidwa. Amene analowa pakhomopo anali mtsikana uja ndipo atangolowa anatseka chitseko. Kenako anayamba kunena mosangalala kuti: “Bambo uja akubwera!”

“Bambo wake uti?” bambo ake anafunsa akumuyang’ana.

“Bambo wachikulire amene amakonda kupita kutchalitchi uja. Ndinapita kutchalitchi ndipo mwamwayi ndinakumana naye n’kumupatsira kalata ija. Ndiyeno anandiiza kuti tibwerere limodzi kuno. Choncho ndinathamanga kuti ndizakudziwitseni kuti akubwera.”

“Ndiwe mwana wanzeru kwambiri,” anatero bambo uja akudzuka pamene anakhala. Kenako anatembenukira kwa mkazi wake n’kumuuza kuti, “Tathimitsani motowo msangamsanga!” Pamene mkazi wakeyo ankakhuthulira madzi pamoto uja, bamboyo anathyola mwendo wa mpando uja pogwiritsa ntchito mwendo wake ndipo anauza manawake wamng’ono kuti aswe galasi la windo la nyumbayo. Mwanayo anamenya windolo ndi chibakera chake kenako anathamangira pabedi lomwe ankagona akulira. Dzanja lake linali litachekeka ndi galasi moti linkatuluka magari.

“Mwana wabwino,” anatero bamboyo akumwetulira ndipo nthawi yomweyo anang’amba shati yake n’kuyamba kupita pamene mwanayo. Posakhalitsa anayamba kumumanga mkono wovulalawo. “Tsopano ndife okonzeka kulandira mlendo wathu wachifundoyo. Akafika n’kuona mmene tikuvutikira, amva chisoni n’kutipatsa ndalama zambiri.”

Posakhalitsa, anamva kugogoda pakhomo. Bambo Jondrette anathamangira kukhomo n’kukatsegula chitseko ndipo atangoona mlendo wawoyo, anawerama mpaka chipumi chawo kutsala pang’ono kugunda pansi.

“Takulandirani bambo athu! Lowani limodzi ndi mtsikana wanu wokongolayo.”

Bambo wachikulireyo limodzi ndi mwana wake analowa ndipo Marius sanakhulupirire zimene anaona. Anali yemweyo ndithu ndipo sikuti maso ake ankalakwitsa!

Mwamuna aliyense amene anagwapo m’chikondi angamvetse mmene Marius anamvera pa nthawiyi. Zinkangokhala ngati kutulo pamene ankaonanso nkhope yomwe anakhala akuidwala kwa miyezi 6. Miyezi imeneyi inali yowawa kwambiri kwa iye ndipo mtsikanayo atangochoka moyo wake unaphimbidwa ndi mdima wandiweyani. Koma tsopano kuwala kunali kutaonekanso.

Kwa kanthawi Marius anabalalika. Koma kenako atayambiranso kuganiza bwinobwino, anaona kuti mtsikanayo anali ataonda pang’ono. Mtsikanayo analowa m’chipindacho atanyamula phukusi lalikulu la zinthu ndipo anapita kukalisiya patebulo.

“Monsieur, takubweretserani zovala komanso zofunda,” anatero M. Leblanc.

“Tathokoza kwambiri, Monsieur, muzigona kutali ndi moto,” anatero a Jondrette akuwerama mosonyeza ulemu. “Koma monga mukuoneramu, ndife anthu ovutika kwambiri. Tilibe chakudya komanso tilibe nkhuni zokolezera moto kuzizira kumeneku. Onaninsu zomwe zachitika ndi mpando wathu wokhawo womwe tili nawo. Chifukwa chokhalitsa, wathyoka mwendo. Nalonso windo lathu lasweka, moti mphepo ikungolowa yonse yathunthu! Kuwonejezera pamenepo, mkazi wanga akudwala komanso mwana wathu wamng’ono wavulala.”

“O-o, pepani kwambiri,” anatero mtsikana uja akuyang’ana dzanja la mwana wovulala uja.

“Mwana wangayu amagwira ntchito ndipo ali

kumeneko mashini anamuvulaza. Zimenezi zikutanthauzanso kuti khomo la ndalama latsekeka chifukwa amayenera kulandira 6 sous pa ola lililonse,” anatero a Jondrette modandaula kwambiri. “Mkono wake wawonongeka kwambiri moti ukhoza kudulidwa.”

Mwana uja, yemwe ankaganiza kuti zimene bambo akewo akunena ndi zoona, anayamba kulira kwambiri chifukwa cha mantha. M. Leblanc ndi “Ursula” anayamba kumutonthoza ndipo a Jondrette anapita pamene panali mkazi wawo ankanamizira kudwala uja n’kukamunong’oneza kuti, “Tamuyang’anani bwinobwino bambo wachikulireyo.”

Kenako anabweranso kumene kunali M. Leblanc n’kukayamba kuwalongosolera za ngongole zomwe anali nazo.

“Mwezi ulionse timafunika kuwapatsa eni nyumbayi ndalama yokwana 6 francs,” anatero a Jondrette ndipo M. Leblanc anatulutsa ndalama n’kuyiika patebulo.

“Panopa ndalama yomwe ndili nayo ndi 5 francs basi,” anatero. “Koma ndibweranso madzulo ano kudzakupatsani ndalama zowonjezera. Panopa tibwerere kaye pambuyo.”

A Jondrette anaperekeza alendo awowa mpaka panja ndipo kwa mphindi zingapo Marius sanadziwe choti achite. Kenako anadumphapakabati paja n’kuthamangira panja. Koma anachedwa chifukwa galeta lomwe alendo aja anakwera linali litapita. Mokhumudwa, anabwereranso m’nyumba ndipo atangolowa anakankha chitseko, koma chitsekocho sichinatsekeke. Atatembenuka anaona kuti mtsikana woonda uja anali atagwira chitsekocho.

“Bwanjinso nanga?” anafunsa Marius. “Wabwera kudzatani?” anatero Marius akuyang’anitsitsa nkhope yake.

Mtsikanayo sanayankhe, m'malomwake anangoi-ma n'kumangomuyag'ana akuoneka watimantha. Ulendo uno sanalowenso m'nyumba.

"Kodi sukufuna kundiyankha, ndati ukufuna chi-yani?" anabwerezanso Marius mokwiya.

"M. Marius," anatero pamapeto pake, "mwakhumu-dwa chifukwa chiyani?"

"Palibe. Chonde ndipatseko kampata. Munthune ndili ndi zambiri zoti ndiziganizire." Atangonena mawu amenewa, Marius anakankhanso chitseko chija, koma sichinatsekekenso.

"Musatero a Marius," anatero mtsikanayo. "N'zo-ona kuti si inu munthu wolemera. Koma m'mawa uja mwatithandiza kwambiri ndipo ngati mungakonde, nane-nso ndikhoza kukuthandizani. Ndikhoza kukuchitirani chilichonse chomwe mungafune?"

Marius anayamba kuganizira zimene mtsikanayo ananena, kenako anati, "Kodi ukudziwa kumene anthu anabwera kwanu aja amakhala?"

"Ayi."

"Ungandifufuzire kumene amakhala?"

"Kuteroko mumafuna zimenezo basi?" anatero mtsikanayo mokhumudwa.

"Inde."

Mtsikanayo anamuyang'ana Marius kwa kanthawi.

"Mundipatsa chiyani ndikagwira ntchito mwandi-tumayi?" anatero ataganizira nkhaniyo kwa kanthawi.

"Chilichonse chimene ukufuna."

"Chilichonse?"

"Inde."

"Chabwino, ndifufuza."

Kenako mtsikanayo analowa m'nyumba yomwe ankakhala n'kutseka chitseko.

Nayenso Marius anatseka chitseko n'kukakhala pansi atagwira nkhope yake. Pa nthawi imeneyi anamvanso mawu kuchokera m'nyumba mwa aneba ake aja.

“Ndikukuuzani, ndi yemwe uja,” anatero a Jondrette kwa akazi awo aja. “Inetu ndimazindikira atangolowa muno.”

Nthawi yomweyo Marius analumphiranso pakabati paja n'kuyamba kusuzumira kudzera pabowo lija.

“Zoonu?” mkazi wawo uja anatero akuoneka kuti wasokonezeka. “Simunaone molakwika inu?”

“Ayi. Ndi yemwe uja ndithu. N'zoonu kuti padutsa zaka 8, koma sindingaiwale nkhope ya munthu amene uja.”

Kenako anauza atsikana awiri aja kuti atuluke panya, ndiyeno atatsala awiri anati: “Komanso ndinazindikira mtsikana uja moti ndikudabwa kuti simunamuzindikire.”

“Ndimuzindikira bwanji ngati ndinamuonapo . . .”

A Jondrette anawerama n'kunong'oneza mkazi wawoyo. Kenako anaweramuka n'kunena kuti: “Mwamukumbukirano eti?”

“Kodi ndi *amene uja*?” anatero mayiwo atanyansitsa nkhope. “Zimenezo n'zosatheka! Ana athu ayenda bwanji opanda nsapato komanso kumavutika ndi usiwa *iye uja* akuvala nsapato zachikopa komanso chijasi chotentha bwino? Mukunamatu inu. Kodi mwaiwala kuti mwana amene uja anali wonyansa? Nokha mwaonanso kuti uyuyu ndi wokongola.”

“Ndikukuuzani, ndi yemwe uja ndithu. Dikirani ndikuuzeni chinthu chinanso. Mtsikana amene uja ndi amene angatithandize kuti tikatamuke. Ndatopa ndi umphawi ine. Nafenso tikufunika kumakhala moyo wabwino ndipo nyambo yake ndi mtsikana amene uja.”

“Mukutanthauza chiyani?”

“Musaiwale kuti bambo uja ananena kuti abweranso madzulo ano. Ndiyeno ineyo ndikatenga anzanga angapo kuti akabwera tiwaopseze mpaka atatulutsa ndalama zokwanira.”

“Ndiye mutani akapanda kukupatsani ndalama zimene mukufunazo?”

A Jondrette anakanda m'mutu ndipo kenako anayamba kuseka. “Tiona zochita nthawi yomweyo.” Kenako anyamuka kuti atuluke, koma anaima mwadzidzidzi n'kubwereranso kwa mkazi wawoyo ndipo anamuuzza kuti, “Mukudziwa mayi, ndi mwayi okhaokha kuti sanandizindikire. Akanangotero, ndiye kuti sakanabweranso kuno. Ndevu zangazi ndi zimene zandipulumutsa, ndevu zanga zokondedwazi, ndevu zamakobidizi!”

Atatero anasekanso mwautambwali n'kuvala chipewa chawo mochifikitsa m'maso, kenako anatuluka panja.

* * *

Marius anali munthu wamaloto. Zinthu zambiri pamoyo wake ankangoziganiza, m'malo mozichita. Iye ankadziwa kuti akuyenera kuchitapo kanthu kuti apulumutse M. Leblanc komanso “Ursula” ku chiwembu chimene a Jondrette anakonza. Koma chifukwa choti anali munthu wamaloto basi, palibe chimene ankaona kuti angachite. Iye sakanakwanitsa kuchenjeza M. Leblanc chifukwa sankadziwa kumene ankakhala. Chinthu chokhacho chomwe akanachita chinali kukauza apolisi basi.

Pamene inkatha 30 minitsi, Marius anatulukira kupolisi. Kalaliki wakumeneko anamulozera ofesi ya mkulu wa apolisi. Kumeneko anakumana ndi munthu wantali wankhope yotambalala yemwe anali ndi kamwa

laling’ono. Munthuyo ankaothera moto.

“Kodi inuyo ndi amene muli mkulu wa apolisi?” anafunsa Marius.

“Ayi, bwana wathu wachokapo,” munthu wamta-liyo anatero. “Ine ndi Insipekita Javert. Mukufuna ndikuthandizeni bwanji?”

Marius anauza Javert zonse zokhudza chiwembu chija. Pamene ankayamba kufotokoza mapu a kunyumba kwake, maso a Javert anawala ndipo anayamba kumvetsera mwatcheru kwambiri. Marius atamaliza kufotokoza zonse, Javert anagwira chibwano chake n’kuyamba kuganiza. Atamaliza, anauza Marius kuti amupatse makiyi a khomo lolowera m’nyumba ija ndipo anamuuza kuti abwerere n’kukabisala kuti aneba akewo aziganiza kuti wachokapo.

“Utengenso katundu uyu,” anatero Javert akumupatsa mifuti iwiri. “Ndiyeno munthu wachikulire ndi mwana wakeyo akangofika, udikire kaye mpaka atayamba kuchita zawozo. Ukaona kuti zikulowera koipa, ukhoza kugwiritsa ntchito katunduyu. Ineyo ndikangomva kuwombera, nthawi yomweyo nditulukira.”

Marius anabwerera kunyumba kwake ndipo anakhala pabedi ali ndi nkhawa. Nthawi inali itatsala pang’ono kukwana 6 koloko. Sinowo anali atasiya kugwa ndipo mwezi wathunthu unali ukuwala kumwamba. Kenako anangomva mawu. Nthawi yomweyo anachotsa nsapato kumapazi kwake n’kukwera pakabati paja n’kuyamba kusuzumira. Moyo unali ukuyaka pakona ina ya chipinda cha aneba akewo ndipo motowo unkachititsa kuti m’nyumbamo mungoti psu-u. A Jondrette, omwe anali atangolowa kumene, ankakuntha sinowo yemwe anakakamira kunsapato zawo.

“Zonse zili m’malo tsopano,” anatero a Jondrette.

“Kodi woyang’anira nyumba uja wapita kwawo?”

“Inde,” anatero mkazi wawo uja.

“Nanga bwanji mnyamata amakhala khomo linali, mwatsimizira kuti kulibe?”

“Sakhala pakhomotu amene uja, ayenera wapita kukapondaponda.”

“Zili bwino.” Kenako anatembenukira kwa ana ake awiri aja. “Inuyo mupite kumsewu. Mukaona chilichonse chodabwitsa mubwere kudzatiuza mwamsanga.”

“Koma ndiye ndi yowawatu!” anatero mtsikana wamkulu uja. “Tizikadikira kumsewu osavala nsapato kuzizira kumeneku?”

“Osadandaula, mawa muvala nsapato zapamwamba!” anatero bamboyo pomulimbikitsa mwana wakeyo.

Patangotha mphindi zingapo, m’nyumbayo muna libenso munthu wina kupatulapo Marius, a Jondrette ndi akazi awo. Marius anapitirizabe kuyang’ana kudzera pampata uja ndipo anaona a Jondrette akuika chitsulo pamoto ndipo kenako anapita patebulo n’kumayang’ana mwachidwi makwerero a chingwe omwe anawaunjika pamenepo. Kenako anatsigula kabati n’kutulutsa mpeni wautali ndipo anauyesa ndi chala chawo kuti aone ngati udakali wakuthwa. Pamene nthawi inkakwana 6 koloko, chitseko cholowera m’chipindacho chinagogodedwa n’kutsegulidwa.

“Takulandirani Monsieur,” anatero a Jondrette akudzuka pamene anakhala.

M. Leblanc anatulukira ndipo anaika makobidi 4 patebulo lija. “Ndalama imeneyi mulipirire lendi ndipo ina yotsalayo mugulire chakudya,” anatero M. Leblanc. “Tso-pano tikhoza kukambirana zinanso zomwe mukufunikira.”

A Jondrette ananong’oneza mkazi wawo ndipo mkaziyo anatuluka panja.

“Mwana anavulala uja akupeza bwanji tsopano?” anafunsa M. Leblanc.

“Bolako pang’ono,” anayankha a Jondrette modaula. “Koma akumva ululu woopsa moti mchemwali wake wamutengera kuchipatala. Sindikukaikira kuti atulukira posachedwapa.”

Anthu awiriwa anapitirizabe kukambirana mwaulemu kwa maminitsi angapo. M. Leblanc anafunsa a Jondrette zinthu zinanso zomwe ankafunikira ndipo a Jondrette anayamba kulakatula mabodza. Atamaliza kulongosola mabodza awowo, anadzuka n’kupita kukatenga chithunzi chachikulu chomwe anachiimika penapake ndipo anawaonetsa M. Leblanc.

“N’chiyani chimenechi?” M. Leblanc anafunsa akuyang’ana chithunzi chonyansa cha msilikali atavala yunifomu.

“Chithunzi chimenechi ndi chojambulidwa pamanja,” anatero a Jondrette. “Ndimachikonda kwambiri mo-fanana ndi mmene ndimakondera ana anga awiri aja. Koma n’zomvetsa chisoni kuti ndikufunika kuchigulitsa kuti ndipeze ndalama yobwezera ngongole zanga. Mukuganiza kuti munthu angandipatse zingati nditamugulitsa chithunzi chimenechi?”

“Chifukwa choti ndi chakutha, mwina mokukondani akhoza kungokupatsani 3 francs.”

“Yachepa imeneyo, ine ndikhoza kuchigulitsa 1,000 francs,” anatero a Jondrette chapansipansi.

M. Leblanc anaimirira n’kuyamba kuyang’ana bwino m’nyumbamo. A Jondrette anali kumanzere kwawo ndipo mkazi wawo uja anali atalowanso n’kukhala kumanja pafupi ndi khomo. A Jondrette anaika chithunzi chija panso ndipo kenako anayamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali munthu wachikulireyo.

“Kodi nkhope yangayi mwaikumbukira?” anafunsa ndi mawu amphamvu a Jondrette.

Chimenechi chinali chizindikiro chimene anapangana ndi anzawo aja moti nthawi yomweyo anthu atatu analowa m’nyumbamo atanyamula zitsulo. M. Leblanc anachita mantha kwambiri moti anabwerera m’mbuyo n’kugwira mpando wothe yoka uja. Marius ataona zime-nezo anayamba kukweza dzanja lake kuti awombe mfuti ija.

“Galeta lija labwera?” a Jondrette anafunsa anzawo atatu aja.

“Inde, lili ndi mahatchi awiri amphamvu,” mmodzi wa iwo anayankha.

“Chabwino.” Kenako anatembenukira kwa M. Leblanc n’kubwerezanso funso anawafunsa lija. “Kodi nkhope yangayi mwaikumbukira?”

“Ayi.”

“Dzina langa si Jondrette. Ndine Thénardier. Mwandikumbukirano eti?”

A Leblanc anachita mantha, koma anapitirizabe kupukusa mutu. Marius, yemwe anali atangotsala pang’ono kuomba mfuti kuti apolisi aja abwere, anadzidzimuka atamva dzinali ndipo anangotsala pang’ono kugwa pakabati anaima paja.

“Thénardier,” anatero muntima mwake. “Limeneli si dzina la munthu amene anapulumutsa bambo anga pa nkondo ya ku Waterloo? Munthu ameneyutu ndi amene ndinalonjeza bambo kuti ndidzamuthandiza mmene ndingathere.”

Ngati Marius akanaomba mfutiyo, M. Leblanc akanapulumuka ndipo a Thénardier akanakumana nazo. Koma kuchita zimenezi kukanasonyeza kusakhulupirika kwa bambo ake. Kuganizira zimenezi kunamufoola kwa-

mbiri moti mawondo ake anaziziratu.

A Thénardier anayamba kuyenda kulowera uku ndi uku pamaso pa M. Leblanc.

“Mwakumbukira kuti munagona pamalo ena ofikira alendo ku Montfermeil zaka 8 zapitazo? Pamene munkachoka kumeneko munatenga kamtsikana kena dzina lake Cossette. Munavala chijasi chachikasu n’kumanamizira kuti ndinu wosauka! Mukudziwa kuti zimene munachita nthawi imene ija zinasokonezeratu moto wathu? Ndiye mukuganiza kuti mungakonze zinthu pondipatsa timabulangete tingapo tofanana ndi timene anthu amapatsidwa kuti afunde kuchipatala! Munandipusitsa kwambiri. Munandinyengerera ndi 1,500 francs n’kutenga mtsikana yemwe ankandipangira ndalama zochuluka zedi.”

“Bambo, zimene mukunenazitu sindikuzidziwa,” anatero M. Leblanc. “Komanso inuyo sindikukudziwani. Chomwe ndinganene panopa n’choti ndinu chigawenga chotha ntchito.”

“Chigawenga?” anatero a Thénardier atakwiya koo-
psa. “Kuteroko dzina limenelo ndi limene anthu ochita bwinonu mumatchula anthu osauka ngati ife? Kudirizika kwa bizinezi yathu chikhale chifukwa chotipatsira mayina oipa? Inetu ndinali msilikali wabwino kwambiri, ndinapulumutsa moyo wa munthu ku Waterloo! Ndiye inu mukundinena kuti ndine chigawenga? Lero ndikuonetsani polekera.”

Kenako anayamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali M. Leblanc, koma munthu wachikulireyo anachitapo kanthu mofulumira. Anakankhira tebulo komanso mpando uja kutsogolo kwake n’kuyamba kuthawira kumene kunali windo. Posakhalitsa analitsecula, koma pamene ankati azilumpha, amuna atatu aja anamumbwandira n’kumukhazika pansi.

Marius anali atabalalikiratu.

“Ndikhululukireni bambo,” anatero chapansipansi akukonzekera kuti aombe mfuti ija.

Koma kenako a Thénardier anati: “Musamuvula-ze!”

Atalimbana kwa nthawi yaitali, amuna atatu aja anamanga nyakula M. Leblanc n’kuwagoneka pabedi.

“Eti alibe waleti!” anatero a Thénardier atafufuza m’matumba a munthu wachikulireyo. “Chabwino, tiona.” Kenako anakhala pabedi paja n’kunena kuti: “Bambo, tiyeni tingothetsa nkhaniyi mwamtendere. Ndalama imene ndikufuna ndi 200,000 francs. Ndikudziwa kuti panopa mulibe ndalama imeneyi. Choncho mulemba kalata kwa mwana wanu uja ndipo ndidzikuuzani zoti mulembe.”

Kenako anamasula M. Leblanc ndipo anawapatsa pepala ndi cholemba. A Thénardier anayamba kuyanakhula ndipo M. Leblanc ankalemba zomwe ankauzidwa.

Kwa mwana wanga wokondedwa.

Ndine bambo ako ndipo ndikufuna kuti ubwere kuno mwamsanga. Munthu amene wakupatsira kalatayi ndi amene ubwere naye. Undipeza ndikukundikirira.

M. Leblanc anasainira kalatayo polemba kuti Urban Fabre⁴⁰, zomwe zinachititsa a Thénardier aone kuti munthu wachikulireyo akuchita zinthu zogwirizanika. Kenako anaika kalatayo mu envelopu n’kulembapo adiresi ndipo a Thénardier analandira kalatayo n’kuipereka kwa mkazi wawo.

“Mutenga galeta lili panjalo ndipo mupite mukatenge mtsikanayo mofumulira.”

Mwina panadutsa 30 minitsi, a Thénardier atangoti ndwi-i n’kuganizira zinthu zambirimбири zoipa m’mutu mwawo. Bambo wachikulire uja, yemwe anali mkaidi wawo tsopano, sanasunthe. Ndiyeno anangomva mapazi a

mahatchi a galeta lija. Posakhalitsa Mme Thénardier anallowa ndi phuma.

“Inu, adiresi analembayitu ndi yabodza,” anatero Mme Thénardier. “Anthu akuti kulibe Urbain Fabre. Bamboyu akutinamiza.”

A Thénardier anakhala pakona ina ya tebulo lija kwa kanthawi akuyendetsayendetsa mwendo wawo m'malere kwinaku akuyang'ana moopsa kumene kunali moto kuja. Kenako anatembenukira mkaidi wawo uja n'kunena chapansipansi akuti: “Mmene mumapanga mapulani oti mulembe adiresi yabodza mumaganiza kuti mwachenjera?”

“Nthawi!” anatero mkaidi uja mwamphamvu akulumpha kuchokera pabedi paja. Mkaidiyu anali atadula chingwe chomwe anamumanga nacho chija. Aliyense anadzidzimuka kwambiri ndipo pamene ankati azichitapo kanthu, M. Leblanc anali ataima pafupi ndi moto uja. Posakhalitsa anasolola chitsulo chinasomekedwa pamotocho chili psu-u kufiira.

“Dziwani kuti sindikukuopani,” anatero M. Leblanc. “Komanso inuyo simukuyenera kundipota.”

Ndi mawu amenewo, anaponyera chitsulo chija pawindo ndipo chinagwera mumsewu.

“Tamugwirani!” anakuwa motero a Thénardier ndipo azibambo awiri mwa atatu aja anagwira M. Leblanc mwamphamvu.

Marius ankangoonerera zonsezi. Thupi lake lina-gwidwa ndi mantha pamene a Thénardier ankayenda molowera kumene kunali mkaidi wawoyo atanyamula mpeni wautali. Kenako anaima mwina mapazi angapo kuchokera pamene panali mkaidiyo. Mkaidi wanzeruyo anali pangosi tsopano, koma ngakhale Marius anaona izi, analephera kuomba mfuti. Koma mwamwayi kuwala kwa

mwezi wa usikuwo kunathandiza Marius kuona njira yabwino yothetsera vutolo. Pamwamba pa kabati anaponda ija panali pepala lomwe mwana wamkazi wa a Thénardier analemba m'mawa uja. Pepalalo linali ndi mawu akuti: *Samalani! Kukubwera apolisi!* Marius anagumula njerwa pakhoma lija n'kutenga kapepala kaja n'kukamanga kunjerwayo, kenako anaiponyera m'chipinda cha aneba akewo.

A Thénardier anapitirizabe kuyenda molowera kumene kunali mkaidi wawo uja. Koma asanachitepo kanthu, mkazi wawo anakuwa kuti: “Bambo, taonani chinthu chagwachi!”

Anatola njerwa ija n'kuona kapepala kaja ndipo anakamasula n'kukapereka kwa mwamuna wawo yemwe anayamba kukawerenga mofulumira.

“Kalembedwe kameneka ndi ka Éponine!” anatero a Thénardier. “Tatengani makwerero ali patebulowo mwa msanga. Apolisi akubwera ndipo tikufunika kuchoka muno msanga!”

Posakhalitsa anaponya makwerero a chingwe aja pawindo, koma asanayambe kutsika, chitseko chinatseguka ndipo Insipekita Javert analowa.

“Akuluakulu, osachita phuma ayi,” anatero Insipekita Javert akumwetulira. “Dziwani kuti simungakwanitse kuthawa chifukwa tabwera okonzeka. Inuyo mulipo 5 okha basi, pomwe ifeyo tilipo 15. Mukhoza kuonanso nokha kuti kuthawa sikungatheke. Ndiye bwanji mungobwera kwa ine mwaulemu kuti ndikuvekeni zibangiri?”

Nthawi yomweyo anthu aja anaponya pansu zida zawo n'kuimika manja m'mwamba. Apolisiwo anagawira aliyense zibangiri zake ndipo anawatenga n'kutuluka nawo panja. Munthu wachikulire uja anali adakali chiimire pafupi ndi windo lija. Javert anayamba kumuyang'ana

ndipo bamboyo anazyolikira pansi. Javert anatembenukira wapolisi mnzake n'kuyamba kumunong'oneza. Pamene ankayang'ananso kuwindo kuja, anapeza kulibe aliyense. Makwerero a chingwe aja anali akungolendewera pawindopo ndipo ataponyaponya maso, sanaone munthu aliyense.

“Munthu ameneyu ndiye katakwe kuposa onse aja,” anatero Javert chapansipansi atakwiya kwambiri.

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Marius sankafuna kukaperekera umboni pa mlandu wa a Thénardier. Choncho, anachoka mofulumira m’nyumba muja n’kupita koyenda. M’mawa wa tsiku lotsatira, anapereka ndalama yotsala kwa woyang’anira nyumbayo ndipo anasamuka n’kumakakhala ndi Enjolras. Insipekita Javert anayesetsa kumuyang’ana paliponse, koma sanamupeze.

Miyezi iwiri inadutsa, komabe mavuto sanamuchoke Marius ndipo anapitirizabe kukhala wosasangalala. Pofuna kukwaniritsa zimene analonjeza bambo ake, Lolemba lililonse ankatumiza ndalama kwa a Thénardier, omwe anali kundende. Zimenezi zikutanthauza kuti nthawi zambiri ankakhala m’maluzi moti ankavutika kwambiri kupeza zofunika pamoyo. Chinthu chinanso chomwe chinakachititsa kuti azingokhala wokhumudwa ndi choti analibenso chiyembekezo choti adzakumananso ndi “Ursula.”

Ndiyeno tsiku lina nkhwawa itamukulira, ananyamuka kwawo n’kupita kumtsinje ndipo atafika kumeneko anayamba kuganizira za “Ursula.” Koma mwadzidzidzi maloto akewa anadulidwa mwankhanza ndi mawu a Éponine, mwana wamkulu wa a Thénardier. Atatembenuka anaona mtsikanayo atavala nsanza zomwe zija, ndipo kuchenjera kwake sikunasinthe, komanso mawu ake ankamvekabe ngati a nkhalamba. Koma mwa njira inayake, anali atayamba kuoneka wokongolako. Atangofika, Épo-

nine anayamba kuyang’ana Marius akumwetulira ndipo kwa kanthawi sananene chilichonse.

“Koma ndiye ndavutikatu kuti ndikupezeni,” anatero Éponine, “Ndakhala ndikukusakasakani paliponse. Kodi munasamuka eti?”

“Inde,” anatero Marius.

“Koma simunalakwitse. Chinyumba chimene chija ndi chakutha,” kenako anayamba kumuyang’anitsitsa Marius. “Kodi n’chifukwa chiyani mwavala chipewa chakuthacho?”

Marius sanayankhe ndipo mtsikanayo anapitiriza kunena kuti: “Komansotu malaya anuwo ndi ong’ambika. Ngati mungakonde ndikhoza kukusokerani. Mnyamata wooneka bwino ngati inu ayenera kumavala zovala zolongosoka.”

Marius sananenebe chilichonse ndipo patapita ka nthawi Éponine ananena kuti, “Mukuoneka kuti simunasangalale kuonana nane. Komatu ndikhoza kukuthandizani kuti muyambirensa kusangalala ngati mutafuna!”

“Ungandithandize bwanji?” anatero Marius.

“Koma ndiye mukuyankha ziphaliwalitu! Bolanso ulendo wapita uja munkatimwetulirako.”

“Pepa kwambiri chifukwa cha zimenezi. Kungoti zinthu sizikundiendera. Ndiye ukutanthauza chiyani ponena kuti ungandithandize kuti ndiyambirensa kusangalala?”

Éponine analuma mulomo wake ndipo anakaikira pang’ono akuoneka kuti akuganizira zoti achite. Kenako anati: “Adiresi ija ndaipeza.”

Mtima wa Marius unanyamuka m’mwamba. “Wati bwanji . . .”

“Ndanana kuti adiresi imene munkafuna ija ndaipeza. Adiresi ya komwe kumakhala mtsikana uja . . .”

anatero Éponine mawu ake akungotsikiratsikirabe.

Marius anadzambatuka pamene anakhala n’kuyamba kuyang’ana dzanja la Éponine.

“Tiyeko undiperekeze pompano!” anatero Marius mosangalala kwambiri. Kenako nkhope yake inadanso ndipo anagwira dzanja la Éponine n’kumuza kuti: “Éponine, ndikukupempha chonde, usayerekeze kuuza bambo ako zimenezi.”

“Sindingawauze, ndikulonjeza,” anatero Éponine akuyang’ana Marius modabwa kwambiri.

Atangoyenda mapazi angapo Éponine anaima ndipo anati: “Mukukumbukira kuti munandilonjeza kuti mudzandichitira chilichonse chomwe ndinganene?”

Marius anapisa m’thumba n’kutulutsa ndalama yokhayo yomwe anali nayo. Inali 5 franc ndipo ankafuna ku-kaipereka kwa makolo a mtsikanayu omwe anali kundende. Marius anatenga ndalamayo n’kuipereka kwa Éponine koma nayenso anatambasula dzanja ndipo ndalamayo inagwera pansu. Éponine anayamba kuyang’ana Marius mokwiya kwambiri.

“Sindikufuna ndalama yanuyo,” anatero Éponine akufuna kulira.

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Madzulo umenewo, Cossette anali yekhayekha m’nyumba yomwe Jean Valjean anagula chaka chapitacho. Nyumbayi inali kumapeto kwa msewu wina ndipo inali yaing’ono kwambiri. Panja pa nyumbayi panali munda waukulu wamaluwa. Valjean anali atapita kukayendetsa bizinezi yake ndipo sanapezeke pakhomo kwa masiku angapo. Choncho Cossette ankangokhala m’nyumba n’kumaimba piyano.

Kenako mwadzidzidzi, anamva munthu akuyenda

m'munda wamaluwa uja. Anamvetsera kwa kanthawi, kenako anathamangira kuchipinda chake, chomwe chinali pamwamba, n'kukatsegula windo kuti aone kuti ndi ndani. Mwezi unali ukuwala ndipo panjapo pankaaoneka bwino-bwino mpaka kumsewu. Koma zodabwitsa n'zoti sanaone aliyense. Cossette yemwe mwachibadwa sanali wamantha, anamwetulira ndipo sanaganizire kwambiri za nkhaniiyi. Jean Valjean atabwera anamufotokozero za nkhaniiyi ndipo iye anadzidzimuka. Madzulo a tsiku lotsatira anazungulirazungulira panja paja, kuyang'ana ngati geti lolowera kunyumba kwawoko linali bwino. Kenako anadikirira kuti aone ngati kungabwere munthu. Koma palibe chodabwitsa chilichonse chomwe chinachitika.

Ndiyeno patapita masiku angapo, Cossette anazindikira kuti pampando womwe unali m'munda wamaluwa uja, panali mwala waukulu. Zimenezi zinali zodabwitsa kwambiri moti anapita pomwepo n'kukachotsa mwalawo. Pansi pake anapezapo envelopu. Mkati mwa envelopuyo munali kope lodzaza ndi ndakatulo zachikondi. Cossette anakhala pansi n'kuyamba kuwerenga ndipo anasangalala kwambiri ndi kuzuna kwa ndakatulozo. Munthu yemwe analemba ndakatulozo anali ndi luso kwambiri chifukwa mawu ake anawalemba mwaukadawulo. Cossette anali asanawerengepo ndakatulo zokoma choncho pamoyo wake moti zinamukhudza kwambiri.

Kenako ananyamuka pampando paja n'kupita kuchipinda ndipo anapitiriza kuwerenga kopelo. Pamene ankawerenga ndakatulozi, anakumbukira mnyamata wookoneka bwino yemwe ankamuona kugaladeni ya Luxembourg. Iye sankakaikira kuti mnyamata ameneyo ndi amene analemba ndakatulo zokomazo. Kenako anakisa kopelo, n'kuliika pachifuwa chake ndipo anakhala pabedi mokhala ngati akuyembekezera winawake.

Madzulo amenewo, Jean Valjean anachokaponso. Cossette anakhala nthawi yaitali akudziyang'anira pagalasi n'kumakonza tsitsi lake komanso kuganizira kuti avale diresi liti. Kenako, anatuluka panja n'kukakhala pampando womwe anapeza kope la ndakatulo lija. Patangodutsa ka nthawi kochepa, anazindikira kuti winawake akumuyang'ana. Atatembenuka anaona munthu ndipo anadzuka msangamsanga. Iye sanakhulupirire zimene anaona. Analidi mnyamata uja.

Mnyamatayo ankaoneka woonda kwambiri mosiyana ndi mmene ankamuonera kugaladeni kuja. Zovala zake sizinkaoneka bwinobwino mumdima wa usikuwo. Komabe nkhope yake inkaoneka bwinobwino chifukwa cha kuwala kwa mwezi. Cossette anangoima akusowa choti achite ndipo sanasunthe kapena kuyankhula.

"Pepa kwambiri kuti ndabwera kwanu kuno," anatero Marius. "Moyo wanga wakhala usakuyenda bwino kungochokera pamene ndinasiya kukuona. Kodi ukundikumbukira? Usachite nane mantha, sindikufuna kukuchita chipongwe. Ndabwera kuno chifukwa ndinakusowa kwambiri. Ndinkasangalala pamene ndinkakuona kugaladeni kuja. Undikhululukire kuti ndanena zimenezi, koma zoonazake n'zakuti sindingakwanitsenso kukhala moyo popanda iwe."

Cossette sanakhulupirire zimene ankamvazi moti anayamba kugwa. Koma Marius anamuwakha asanagwere pansi ndipo anachita zimenezi popanda kuzindikira kuti akuchita chiyani. Iye anali atasokonezeka ndi chikondi. Cossette nayenso anatambasula manja ake n'kumukumbatira mnyamatayo mwamphamvu. Marius anazindikira kuti mtsikanayo anali ndi kope lija ndipo anati: "Kuteroko wawerenga ndakatulo zija. Kodi nawenso umandikonda?"

"Inde ndimakukonda," anayankha mtsikanayo cha-

pansipansi. “Nawenso ukudziwa kuti ndimakukonda.”

Mosadziwika bwino bwino, milomo yawo inango-
pezeka kuti yagundana ndipo anayamba kukisana. Atama-
liza kugwira ntchitoyi, anakhala pampando paja akuchi-
tirana manyazi. Mumtima mwawo anali ndi chimwemwe
chosaneneka. Iwo ankamva bwino kwambiri kukhala mo-
yang’anizana, kwinaku atagwirana manja. Kenako mitima
yawo itakhazikika, anayamba kucheza zokhudza zomwe
analakwitsa pamoyo wawo komanso zomwe ankalakalaka
atachita. Atamaliza kukambirana zimenezi, Cossette ana-
tsamira mnyamatayo pachifuwa n’kumufunsa kuti, “Kodi
dzina lako ndi ndani?”

“Dzina langa ndi Marius. Nanga iwe dzina lako ndi
ndani?”

“Cossette.”

M’katikati mwa mwezi wa May m’chaka cha 1832,
Cossette ndi Marius anakumana tsiku ndi tsiku panja pa
nyumba ija. Iwo ankakhala panso atagwirana manja n’ku-
macheza. Nthawi zinanso ankangokhala n’kuyamang’a-
nizana mwachikondi kwinaku akumwetulirana.

“Ndiwe wokongola kwambiri bwenzi langa,” ana-
tero Marius tsiku lina. “Nthawi zina ndimangokhala ngati
ndikulota. Sindikhulupirira kuti ndiwedi wanga. Chikondi
chimene ndili nacho pa iwe ndi champhamvu kuposa
imfa.”

“Nanenso ndimakukonda kwambiri.”

Akamacheza chonchi, Cossette ndi Marius anka-
ngokhala ngati alowa m’paradayiso ndipo ankaiwaliratu
mavuto onse omwe anakumana nawo pa moyo wawo.

* * *

Madzulo a tsiku lina kumwamba kutadzaza nyenyezi, Ma-

rius anapitanso kunyumba kwa Cossette ndipo anamupeza akumudikirira pampando uja. Koma chodabwitsa n'choti patsikuli, nkhope ya Cossette inali yakugwa.

“Chachitika n'chiyani?” anafunsa Marius akukhala pambali pake.

“Bambo anga akuti tisamuke kuno,” anayankha Cossette.

Marius anadzidzimuka ndi uthengawu moti anayamba kunjenjemera. Kwa milungu 6, moyo wake unali wosangalala kwambiri chifukwa cha Cossette. Koma tsopano, mdima waukulu unalinso ukumuyembekezera ndipo sankakhulupirira kuti zimenezi zikuchitikanso pamoyo wake.

“N'chifukwa chiyani wakhumudwa chonchi Marius?” anafunsa Cossette mofanana ndi mmene mnzakeyo anamufunsira atangofika muja.

Marius anayankha ndi mawu otsika kwambiri moti Cossette sanawamve, “Ungabwerezenso zimene umanena zija.”

“Ndimati bambo anga akuti tilongedze katundu. Akuti tisamukire ku England.”

Marius anaimirira ndipo ananena mwamphamvu kuti, “Ndiye iweyo wavomera kuti upita?”

Cossette anamuyang'ana bwenzi lakeyo ndipo anaona kuti wakhumudwa kwambiri.

“Nanga ndipanga bwanji?” anayankha Cossette.

“Kuteroko ukufuna undisiye ndekha?”

“Marius, n'chifukwa chiyani wayambanso kuyankhula chonchi?”

Marius anatembenuka n'kuyang'ana kumbali ndipo anati: “Ukangonyamuka sudzandionanso.”

“Kuteroko wanyanyala? Komatu pali zinazake zomwe ndimaganza kuti tichite.”

Marius anatembenuka ndipo anadabwa kuona Cossette akumwetulira.

“Ukufuna tichite chiyani?”

“Ukhoza kutitsatira tikanyamuka. Bambo akandi-
uza kumene tikupita, ndikudziwitsa ndipo tikakumana
komweko n’kukapitiriza kukhala limodzi mosangalala.”

“Ukuganiza kuti ndingakwanitse kuchita zimene-
zo?” anatero Marius. “Kuti munthu akafike ku England
amafunika ndalama zambiri, koma ineyo ndilibiretu chili-
chonse. Mwina sindinakuuze Cossette, ineyotu ndine wo-
sauka. Ndimavala chipewa chotchipa, mabatani a jekete
langa angotsala pang’ono chifukwa chomangothothoka
komanso nsapato zanga ndi zatheratu.” Kenako Marius
anatembenukanso n’kuyang’ana kumbali atatsamiritsa
mutu wake kumtengo. Iye anakhala choncho kwa kantha-
wi. Kenako anangomva kaphokoso kumbuyo kwake ndipo
atatembenuka anaona Cossette akulira.

Marius anagwada pansi patsogolo pa Cossette ndipo
anatenga chala chake n’kuchigunditsa pamilomo ya bwe-
nzi lakelo.

“Usalire Cossette,” anatero Marius. “Sindingalole
kuti undisiye ndekha. Ngati utatero ndikhoza kumwalira.
Komabe ndimvetsere, ndapeza nzeru ina moti mawa si-
ndibwera kuno.”

“Chifukwa?” anafunsa Cossette akupukuta misozi.
“Ukuganiza kuti ndikwanitsa bwanji kukhala tsiku lonse
osakuona?”

“Ndikuona kuti ndi bwino kuti tisaonane tsiku limo-
dzi n’cholinga choti tikhale osangalala kwa moyo wathu
wonse.”

“Ukufuna uchite chiyani?”

“Dikira ndidzakuuza ndikabwerako. Koma lerolo
ndikufuna ndikupatse adiresi ya kumene ndimakhala. Ndi-

makhala ndi mnzanga dzina lake Enjolras.” Marius anatulutsa mpeni n’kuzokota adiresi yake pakhoma: 16, rue de la Verrerie⁴¹.

“Chonde Marius,” anatero Cossette akumuyang’ana bwenzi lakeyo. “Ndiuze, ukufuna upite kuti mawalo? Inetu sindigona ukapanda kundiuzza.”

“Ndikufuna ndikayese kuchita zinazake.”

“Chabwino, ndizikupempherera kuti ziyende bwino. Sindifunsanso zambiri, koma ndilonjeze kuti udzabwera kuno tsiku lotsatira isanakwane 9 koloko usiku.”

“Ndikulonjeza Cossette, ndidzabwera isanakwane 9 koloko,” anatero Marius.

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M. Gillenormand, omwe anali agogo a Marius, anakhala moyo wautali kwambiri moti anali ndi zaka 90. Komabe, moyo wawo sunali wosangalala pa zifukwa zambirimбири. Choyamba ankada nkhawa chifukwa mano awo anali atatheratu mkamwa. Chachiwiri, sankasangalala ndi mmene ndale zinkayendera m'dziko lawo. Komanso chachitatu, chomwe ndi chifukwa chachikulu kwambiri chomwe chin-kachititsa kuti asamasangalale, ndi choti anali atayambana ndi chidzukululu chawo ndipo panali patadutsa zaka zambiri asanaonanenso. Kunena zoona, gogoyu anali wozdzikuza kwambiri moti sankafuna kuvomereza kuti analakwitsa zinthu ndi iyeyo. Ngakhale mtima unkawapweteka, M. Gillenormand ankakhulupirirabe kuti tsiku lina Marius adzabwera kudzawaona.

Ndiyeno tsiku lina chakumadzulo m'mwezi wa June, M. Gillenormand anakhala m'nyumba mwawo n'ku-maothera moto kwinaku akugazira za Marius. Nkhani imene inkawavutitsa maganizo kwambiri ndi yoti ankaganiza kuti akhoza kudzamwalira asanakumanenso ndi chidzukululu chawocho. Pamene ankaganizira zimenezi, wantchito wawo anatulukira n'kunena kuti, "Monsieur, kwabweratu Marius!"

Kwa kanthawi, M. Gillenormand anangokhala du-u, nkhope yawo itasinthiratu. Wantchitoyo anayamba kuganiza kuti abwana akewo sakumva bwino m'thupi. Koma

kenako munthu wachikulireyo anadzutsa mutu wake n'ku-nena kuti, "Muuzeni alowe."

Marius anaima mokaikira m'kolido atavala zovala zakutha. Mwamwayi zovalazo sizinkaonekera kwambiri usikuwo. Palibe chilichonse chomwe chinkaoneka bwino-bwino kupatulapo nkhope yake, yomwe inalinso yokhumudwa.

M. Gillenormand anayang'ana nkhope ya chidzukululu chawocho asakukhulupirira kuti wabweradi. Iwo ankafuna atamukumbatira, koma chifukwa cha kudzikuzana analephera kuchita zimenezi moti anafunsa chidzukululu chawocho kuti, "Wabwera kudzatani kuno?"

Marius sanayembekezere kuti agogo akewo angamufunse funso limenelo moti anayankha chapansipansi atakhumudwa kwambiri.

"Sindinamve zimene wanena," anatero agogo akewo akumuyang'ana monyansidwa. "Kodi wabwera kudzapepesa? Wazindikirano kuti unalakwitsa kwambiri, si choncho?"

"Ayi, Monsieur," anatero Marius atagwetsa nkhope yake.

"Ndiye wabwera kudzatani?" anatero agogo akewo mokweza kwambiri.

"Monsieur, ndabwera kuti ndidzakupempheni chinthu chimodzi. Ndikudziwa kuti sindimayenera kubwera kuno. Komabe ndabwera kuti ndidzakupempheni chinthu chimodzi ndipo mukangondichitira chinthu chimenechi sindidzapondanso pakhomo pano."

"Ndiwe wopusa kwabasi," anatero agogo akewo. "Ndi ndani amene wakuuza kuti unyamuke? Iweyo unachoka kuno n'kupita kumakachita nawo zionetsero zolimbana ndi boma. N'zosachita kufunsa kuti apolisi ayenera akukusakasaka, kapena angongole akupanikiza moti wa-

bwera kuti udzapemphe chithandizo . . .”

“Monsieur, ine sindinabwerere nkhani imeneyo.”

“Ndiye wabwera kudzatani?”

“Ndabwera kudzakupemphani kuti mundilole kulowa m’banja. Ndikufuna kukwatira.”

Agogo akewo anakhala kaye du-u, kenako anati: “Kuteroko ukundiiza kuti ukufuna kukwatira uli ndi zaka 21 zokha? Kodi uli pantchito? Ndipo ngakhale zitakhala kuti uli pantchito, ndi ndalama zingati zomwe ungalandire pogwira ntchito ya uloya? Ukumalandira ndalama zingati?”

“Palibe.”

“Palibe? Kapenatu mtsikana amene ukufuna kumukwatirayo ali nazonazo ndalama.”

“Ndi wosauka ngati ine ndemwe.”

“Nanga bambo ake amatani?”

“Sindikudziwa.”

M. Gillenormand anakhumudwa kwambiri moti anayang’ana kumbali.

“Koma amenewa ndi malodza ndithu! Zaka 21 zokha, suli pantchito, ulibe ndalama, koma ukuti ukufuna kukwatira! Koma mkazi wakoyo amadziwa kuti moyo ndi wovuta? Wakonzeka kumakapita kumsika atatenga kandalama kokhala ngati kopatsa mwana kuti akadyere kusukulu? Bwenzi lakoyo walimba mtima kuulowa moyo wamavuto?”

“Chonde Monsieur,” anatero Marius. “Mtsikana ameneyo ndimamukonda kwambiri. Chonde ndiloleni kuti ndimukwatire!”

M. Gillenormand anayamba kuseka mwachipongwe.

“Kuteroko pamene umachoka kwakuno umaganiza kuti: ‘ndipite kukakumana ndi nkhalamba yopusa ija. Si-

ndikukaikira kuti ikasangalala kundionanso moti ndikakangofotokoza zoti ndikufuna kukwatira, sikachedwa kundilola mosaganizira zoti ndikukwatira ndani. Ineyo ndi wosauka, chibwenzi changachonso ndi chosauka. Koma zimenezo zilibe ntchito. Ndilola kuwononga moyo wanga, tsogolo langa, komanso chilichonse n'kulumphira m'mavuto komanso kudziunjikira chintolo china chinanso cholemera . . .' Kuteru umaganiza zimenezo? Ndikuuze mphwanga, ukhoza kuchita zimene ukufuna. Koma usanganize kuti ndingakupatse chilolezo choti ukwatire! Zimenezo sindingachite ngakhale nditazungulira mutu!"

"Agogo . . ."

"Ndakuuza kale kuti zimnenzo sizingatheke!"

Mawu amenewa anatsimikizira Marius kuti agogo akewo sangamulole. Ataona kuti kupitiriza kupempha kulibe tsogolo, ananyamuka n'kumapita nkhope itagwa. Pamene ankati adzituluka pakhomu, M. Gillenormand anagwira mkono n'kumukoka mpaka kukamukhazika pampando.

"Tandifotokozera bwinobwino," anatero M. Gillenormand ndipo Marius anawayang'ana modabwa. Iye sankadziwa kuti asintha poyerayera chifukwa chiyani. Mwina n'kutheka kuti mawu akuti "agogo" ndi amene anachititsa kuti asinthe maganizo. "Tandifotokozera bwinobwino zokhudza chibwenzi chakocho. Osaiwala kuti ndine agogo ako. Umu . . ." anatero M. Gillenormand akutulutsa waleti kuchokera mukabati n'kuyiika patebulo. ". . . muli ndalama zomwe ndikufuna kukupatsa. Ndalama zimenezi ukagulire zovala zabwino."

Marius anawafotokozera agogo akewo zonse zokhudza Cossette komanso mmene ankamukondera ndipo M. Gillenormand ankangomvetsera mwatcheru. Atamaliza kufotokoza nkhanu yonse, anadabwa kuona agogo

akewo akuseka koopsa.

“Mnyamata amayenera kusangalala kaye ndi moyo,” anatero agogo akewo. “Ukufunika kumachita zinthu mochangamuka Marius. Usakwatire panopa ayi, amenewa ndi malangizo aulere amene ndingakupatse. Uzingosangalala ndi mtsikanayo, koma usamukwatire. Angokhala wachikondi wako, osati mkazi wako.”

Marius anazizidwa thupi ndi mawu amenewa moti anapukusa mutu n’kuimirira. Kenako anayandikira agogo akewo n’kuwauza kuti: “Zaka 5 zapitazo ndinakhumudwitsa bambo anga. Lero ndakhumudwitsa wachikondi wanga, yemwe ndikuyembekezera kudzamukwatira. Ndiye popeza mwakana kundipatsa chilolezo, sindikupemphaninso chilichonse. Basi ndapita.”

M. Gillenormand anaitana Marius, koma Marius sanabwerere. Mnyamata wosafuna kumva zonena za agogo akeyo anatseka chitseko n’kuona msanawanjira.

“O-o, ndikhululukireni Mulungu wanga,” anadandaula gogoyo atagwira mutu wake podzimvera chisoni. “Ndachita chiyani ine? Apatu mwina sadzabweranso!”

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Marius anachoka kunyumba kwa agogo ake atakhumudwa kwambiri ndipo atafika kumene ankakhala, anangofikira kudziponya pabedi asanavule ndi nsapato zomwe. Pamene ankadzuka, Enjolras anali akucheza ndi anzake m’nyumbamo. Zinali zoonekeratu kuti ankakambirana nkhani yochititsa mantha.

“Kodi mukukambirana chiyani?” anafunsa Marius tulo tili m’maso.

“Kodi upita nawo kumaliro a Jenelo Lamarque?⁴²”

“Jenelo Lamarque ndi ndani?”

Enjolras ndi anzake aja anapukusa mitu posakhu-lupirira kuti Marius sakudziwa munthu wotchuka ngati ameneyo ndipo kenako anatuluka ndi anzake aja n'ku-mapita. Marius anatsegula kabati n'kutulutsa mifuti imene Insipekita Javert anamubwereka mu February. Anaiyang'ana kwa kanthawi, kenako n'kuika mifutiyo m'thumba la jekete lake. Kenako ananyamuka n'kupita kumakayendayenda ngati wamisala. Pamene ankayenda, anadabwa kuona kuti m'tauniyo munali chipwirikiti chokhachokha. Anthu ankangoti zungulizunguli ndipo ena ankachita phokoso, koma Marius analibe nazo ntchito zimenezi. Nkhani yomwe inali m'mutu mwake inali ya Cossette. Iye ankaganizira zoti akamuuze bwenzi lakeyo akakumana naye madzulo umenewo.

Pamene inkakwana 9 koloko, Marius anali atafika kale kunyumba kwa Cossette, koma sanapezeka munthu. Iye anakhumudwa kwambiri kuona kuti Cossette sanamudikire ngati mmene anamulonjezera. Atayang'ana m'nyumba muja, anazindikira kuti mulibemo munthu chifukwa simunkawala nyali komanso mawindo onse anali otseka. Iye analephera kudzigwira moti anayamba kulira kwinaku akumenya khoma la nyumbayo ndi chibakera chake.

“Cossette!” anatero Marius akulira mowawidwa mtima ndipo sankasamala zoti pakhoza kukhala wina yemwe akumuona. “Cossette, kodi uli kuti?”

Marius anapitirizabe kuitana dzinalo mobwereza-bwereza mpaka mphamvu zinamuthera. Kenako anakhala panso n'kumadzimvera chisoni. Iye ankaona kuti popanda Cossette, moyo wake ukhala wopanda phindu. Chomwe anayamba kuganiza zoti kuli bwino angofa.

Mwadzidzidzi anangomva kuitana. Kuitanako kunkachokera pakatchire kena komwe kanali m'mbali mwa msewu uja.

“M. Marius!”

Atamva dzina lakelo anadzuka ndipo anayamba ku-
lowera kumsewu kuja.

“Ndi ndani?”

“Ndi M. Marius eti?”

“Inde.”

“Anzanu akukudikirani ku rue de Chanvrerie⁴³.
Akutseka msewu kuti aliyense asadutse.”

Marius anayamba kuthamangira kumene kunali
munthuyo. Pamene ankafika mumsewu muja anaona kuti
ndi Éponine, mwana wa a Thénardier ndipo nayenso anali
atangotsala pang’ono kuzimiririka m’chigulu cha anthu
omwe ankayenda mumsewu.

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Nyengo yozizira itangontha mu 1832, anthu a mumzinda wa Paris anali atakonzeka kuukira boma. Mfumu Charles⁴⁴ ya nambala 10, yomwe inayamba kulamulira mu 1824, inkakhulupirira kuti ikhoza kulamulira anthu a ku France popanda vuto lililonse. Mfumuyi inali ya Chikatolika ndipo inkagwirizana ndi zoti boma lizilamulidwa ndi anthu ochita bwino komanso ophunzira. Itangokhala mfumu, inachotsa maufulu onse omwe Napoleon anapereka kwa anthu wamba. Zimenezi zinachititsa kuti anthu asamai-konde. Komabe, mfumuyi inkaona kuti zimenezi sizingabweretse mavuto aakulu chifukwa inkaona kuti anthu amene ankadana nayewa analibe mphamvu zomulephertsa kuchita zimene akufuna. Koma mfumuyi inkadzina-miza kwambiri.

Mu 1830, anthu anaukira boma ndipo iye anakakamizika kubwerera kwawo ku England. Kenako mfumu Louis-Philippe⁴⁵ inayamba kulamulira. Mfumu yatsopanoyi inali yanzeru komanso inkakonda kwambiri dziko lake. Poyamba anthu wamba ankamukonda, koma kenako anayamba kusonyeza kuti ankangofuna kukhala ndi mphamvu zambiri m'malo mopereka mphamvuzo kwa anthu kuti azidzilamulira okha pansi pa ulamuliro wademokalase. N'zoona kuti ankadziwa zambiri zokhudza malonda, koma zikuoneka kuti sankadziwa mavuto amene anthu wamba ankakumana nawo. Komanso zikuoneka kuti sa-

nkadziwa tanthauzo lenileni la mawu akuti ufulu waku-lankhula. Tikutero chifukwa anthu wamba akayamba ku-yankhula, iye ankawatseka pakamwa ndipo ena akamachita zionetsero, ankatumiza asilikali kuti akawatibule.

Pamene nyengo yotentha inkayamba, ogwira ntchito m'makampani komanso anthu osauka anali atakwiya kwambiri. Mkwiyu umenewu unaphulika mu June 1832 pamene Jenero Lamarque anamwalira. Anthuwa anangopezerapo mpata woyambitsa zipolowe. Jenero Lamarque anali munthu wotchuka kwambiri pakati pa Afalansa chifukwa ankakonda Napoleon. Ndiyeno atangomwalira, anthu anaganiza zomupatsa ulemu wapadera moti anamukonzera chimwambo chachikulu cha maliro. Chimwambochi chinachitika pa 5 June, 1832. Koma panali anthu ena omwe anaona kuti umenewu ndi mwayi wawo woti asonyeze kukwiya ndi mmene boma linkayendetsera zinthu. Choncho anagwirizana zoti achite zionetsero pa tsikuli.

Mwambo wamalirowo unayamba bwino ndithu. Asilikali ananyamula bokosi la maliro ndipo ena ankatsatira pambuyo akuyenda mwadongosolo n'kumadutsa mumzinda wa Paris. Kumbuyo kwa asilikaliwo kunkabwera anthu zikwizikwi. Anthuwa ananyamula mbendera, malupanga komanso mitengo ikuluikulu. Posakhalitsa chisokonezo chinayamba moti anthuwo anagalukira gulu la asilikali lija n'kulanda bokosi la maliro. Anthuwo anayamba kuthawitsa bokosilo n'kumalowera kumene kunali pamlatho wina kuti akawoloke. Mwatsoka, pamlathowo panali asilikali ndipo zinali zodziwikiratu kuti pafa mzungu. Kwa kanthawi, palibe choopsa chomwe chinachitika. Koma kenako mfuti inalira maulendo awiri. Chipolopolo choyamba chinapha komanda wa asilikali yemwe anaima pamlathowo ndipo chachiwiri chinapha mayi wina wogo-

antha yemwe ankatseka mawindo a nyumba yake.

Zimenezi zitangochitika, kumenyana kodetsa nkha-wa kunawulika. Asilikali anayamba kulemba anthu ndi mipeni yawo ndipo khamu la anthu lija nalonso linabwezera. Anthu okwiyawo ankagulula miyala n’kumaivungira kwa asilikaliwo. Pamene zinkatha mphindi zingapo, mumzinda wa Paris munali muli nkondo yoopsa.

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Kumenyana kuja kutangoyamba, Enjolras ndi anzake anayamba kutseka msewu panja pashopu ina yogulitsa vinyo. Shopuyi inkatchedwa Corinth⁴⁶ ndipo inali m’mbali mwa msewu wa rue de la Chanvrerie. Msewu umenewu unalumikizidwa ndi timisewu tina tamdima tomwe tinkalowa m’dera lamalonda la ku Paris. Posakhalitsa Enjolras anayamba kuthandizidwa ndi anthu enanso ambirimbiri. Pamalowa panalinso munthu wina wamtali ndipo palibe amene ankamudziwa. Anthu atamuona, anakopeka naye chifukwa anali wamphamvu komanso wanzeru.

Pamalowa panalinso ana angapo. Anawa anali masikini ndipo zikuoneka kuti anatengeka ndi phokoso la kulira kwa mfuti n’kubwera pamalowa kudzathandiza nawo kutseka msewuwo ndi zinthu zosiyanasiyana. Mmodzi mwa ana amenewa anali Éponine. Éponine anali atavala ngati mnyamata n’cholinga choti anthu asamuthamangitse. Atangochoka kouza Marius kuti anzake akumudikirira, anayamba kuthandiza Enjolras ndi anzake aja kutseka msewuwo. Tsopano anthu enanso ambirimbiri anali akubwerabe kumalowa ndipo ena ankatulukira atanyamula mifuti komanso zida zina pokonzekera kumenyana ndi asilikali omwe ankayembekezera kuti afika nthawi iliyonse.

Enjolras, yemwe ankatsogolera gulu lazigawengali, anauza anthu kuti atsekenso mbali ina ya msewuwo. Anapemphanso anthu ena kuti azisula zipolopolo pogwiritsa ntchito zitsulo zosungunula. Munthu wamtali uja anathan-diza kwambiri potseka msewuwo ndipo anthuwa anau-njika chimulu chachachikulu n’kutsekeratu msewuwo. Nayenso Éponine, yemwe aliyense ankaganiza kuti ndi wamwamuna, ankagwira ntchito mwakhama. Posakhalitsa anakwanitsanso kutseka mbali ina ya msewuwo ndi zinthu zosiyanasiyana ndipo zimenezi zinachitika osakwana ndi ola limodzi lomwe. Pamene ng’oma zinkayamba kulira kwambiri m’tauniyo, Enjolras anabweretsa tebulo mumse-wu muja ndipo anaitana anzake n’kuyamba kumwa mowa.

Anthuwa anakhala pamalowa mpaka mdima una-gwa, koma palibe chilichonse chomwe chinachitika. Pa-malowa panali anthu 50 ndipo onse anadikira moleza mti-ma kubwera kwa asilikali 60 sauzande. Pa nthawi imeneyi Enjolras anayamba kukaikira munthu wamtali uja ndipo anapita pamene anali n’kukayamba kumufunsa mafunso.

“Kodi ndinu ndani bambo?” anafunsa Enjolras.

Munthu wamtaliyo sanayankhe ndipo Enjolras ana-zindikira kuti pali kanthu.

“Ndinu wapolisi eti?” anafunsanso Enjolras.

Munthuyo anamwetulira n’kuvomerezadi kuti ndi wapolisi.

“Dzina langa ndi Javert,” anatero munthuyo.

Nthawi yomweyo Enjolras analamula anthu 4 kuti amuseche. Anthuwo anapeza kalata m’thumba mwake. Kalatayo inkamuvomereza kuti akhale kazitape waboma. Anthuwo atazindikira kuti ndi kazitape, anamutenga n’ku-kamumangirira kuchitsulo china chomwe chinali m’shopu yogulitsira mowa ija.

“Munthu womalizira kufa nkondoyi ikafika povu-

ta ukhala iweyo ndipo ndi ineyo amene nditakuphe,” Enjolras anamudziwitsa pasadakhale zomwe akuyembekezera kukumana nazo.

* * *

Marius anachoka kugaladeni kuja atakwiya kwambiri chifukwa chosiyana ndi Cossette. Chifukwa cha mkwiyo womwe unali mumtima mwake, anayamba kuyenda molowera pakati pa mzinda wa Paris komwe kunkamveka ng’oma komanso mfuti. Mumtima mwake anali ndi cholinga chimodzi basi: Ankafuna kufa.

Marius anapitirizabe kuyenda molowera kumene kunkachokera anthu omwe ankathawa asilikali. Ena mwa anthuwo ankabwera akukambirana zomwe zinkachitika kumalowo koma Marius sanawasamale moti anayenda mpaka kukafika chakumsika kuja. Kumeneko anapeza kuti asilikali atseka misewu yonse yamdima ija. Chifukwa choti sankachita mantha, anayamba kuthamangira komweko ndipo sanamvere pamene munthu wina ankamuza kuti aime. Ataona kuti sakumva, anaomba mfuti ndipo chipolopolo chinamenya khoma lomwe linali pafupi ndi Marius.

Pamene ankayandikira msewu wa rue de la Chanvrerie anamva chiphokoso cha anthu omwe anali mumtima akunena kuti: “Ndi ndani akuyenda kumenekoyo?”

“Boma liyenera kusintha!” anamvanso munthu wina akukuwa chapatali ndipo anazindikira kuti ndi mnzake uja, Enjolras.

Marius anali atabisala pamdima. Iye ankati akaponya maso, ankatha kuona asilikali atalozetsa mifuti yawo ku rue de la Chanvrerie. Zikuoneka kuti ankangodikirira kuti mtsogoleri wawo awauze kuti awombe.

“Faya-a!” anatero mtsogoleriyo ndipo zipolopolo zinabanduka moopsa. Mumsewu monse munawala ndi mvula ya zipolopolo ndipo pamalowa panali phokoso loswa makutu.

Marius anayambiranso kuthamanga mpaka kukatulukira ku rue de la Chanvrerie, kuseri kwa shopu yogulitsa mowa ija. Pamene ankakafika pamene panali gulu la ziga-wenga zija, asilikali a boma anali atayamba kale kukwera chimulu chachikulu chija. Pa nthawi imeneyi m’pamene Marius anaona msilikali wina akuwumbudza Enjolras yemwe anali atagwera pansi. Pamene msilikaliyo ankati azibaya Enjolras ndi mpeni, Marius anatulutsa mfuti n’kuwombera msilikaliyo ndipo anagwera pansi n’kuferatu.

Asilikali ambiri anali atafika pamwamba pa chimulu cha zinthu chija. Koma zikuoneka kuti ankalephera kupitirira pamenepa chifukwa zigawenga zija zinkawombera moopsa. Marius, anataya mfuti ija pansi n’kuyamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali chingolo cha onga wamfuti. Chingolochi chinali pafupi ndi khomo lolowera mushopu ya mowa ija. Marius ankangoyenda mwachimbulimbuli moti sanaone pamene msilikali wina ankamulozetsa mfuti. Kenako anaiombadi ndipo kamnyamata kena komwe kanavala nsanza kanalumphira kutsogolo kwa mfutiyo. Chipolopolo chomwe chinatsomphoka mumfutiyo chinamuvulaza kwambiri ndipo anagwera pansi. Posakhalitsa magazi anayamba kuyenderera pambali pake.

“Ikani pansi zida zanu n’kuimika manja m’mwamba!” anatero msilikali wina yemwe anali pamwamba pa chimulu cha chija.

“Faya-a!” anakuwa Enjolras polamula zigawenga zija kuti zipitirizebe kuwombera.

Anthuwa anawomberana osati pang’ono moti pamalowo panali utsi okhaokha. Utsiwu unkatuluka kuka-

mwa kwa mfutizo zikamatsokomola zipolopolo. Pamene unkakamuka, pansi ponse panali patadzaza anthu akufa. Amene zipolopolo zinawaphonya anayamba kulongedzanso zipolopolo zina mumfuti zawo. Pa nthawi imeneyi m'pamene munthu wina anadzakuwa n'kunena kuti, "Chokani kuno msanga, apo ayi ndiphulitsa malo onse ano!"

Aliyense anatembenukira kumene mawuwo anka-chokera. Anali Marius ndipo anaima pamunsi pa chimulu cha zinthu chija, atanyamula sakali m'dzanja lake. Kenako anayamba kuyandikitsa sakaliyo kumene kunali chingolo cha onga wa mfuti chija. Onga umenewu unali woti kungogwirira moto ukanaphulika ngati bomba n'kuphwasuliratu malo onsewo.

"Ukangotsitsatu dzanja lakolo nawenso unyenye-keratu!" anatero mtsogoleri wa asilikali aja.

Marius anamwetulira ndipo anayamba kutsitsa dzanja lake kuti aphulitse onga wamfutiwo. Asilikali aja atangoona zimenezo, anathawira pamalo ena chapatali n'kusiya anzawo ambirimbi omwe anafa komanso kuvulala pakuwomberana kuja.

Enjolras anapita pamene panali Marius n'kukamukoleka dzanja m'khosi.

"Wachita bwino kubwera aise! Ndimayesa subweratu!" anatero Enjolras.

Marius anakumbatira Enjolras komanso anthu ena omwe ankawadziwa.

Asilikali aja anabisalabisala m'malo amdima n'kumadikirira kuti mtsogoleri wawo awauze zochita. Pa nthawi imeneyi zigawenga zija zinayamba kututa matupi a anthu omwe anaphedwa pa kuwomberana kuja. Enanso ankachotsa anthu ovulala n'kumakawaika pamalo abwino. Zomwe zinkachitikazi zinkangokhala ngati maloto kwa

Marius. Pambuyo poti wakhala miyezi iwiri akusangalala ndi Cossette, tsopano anali ali pakati pa nkondo. Marius sankakhulupirira kuti zimenezi zikumuchitikiradi. Zikukoneka kuti anali atasokonezeka kwambiri moti sanazindikire Javert, yemwe anamangiriridwa pachitsulo mkati mwa shopu yogulitsira mowa ija.

Kenako Marius anayamba kuyendayenda ndipo pamene ankadutsa mbali ina ya msewuwo komwe kunatsekedwa ndi mulu waung'ono uja, anadzidzimuka kumva munthu wina akumuitana. Munthuyo ankamuitana movutikira kwambiri ndipo Marius atamva anayamba kuganiza kuti mawuwo akuchokera pamalo ena pomwe panali mdima.

“M. Marius!”

Marius anaimba n’kumwazamwaza maso, koma sanaone munthu. Kenako anapitiriza kuyenda akuganiza kuti wamva molakwika.

“M. Marius!” anamvanso kuitana kuja.

Marius anayang'ananso pamdima paja ndipo mofanana ndi poyamba paja, sanaone munthu aliyense.

“Ndili pansipa, pafupi ndi mapazi anu,” anatero munthu uja ndi mawu ofooka kwambiri.

Marius anayang'ana pansi ndipo anaona chinthu chinachake chikuyesa kudzuka pafupi ndi mapazi ake. Nyali yomwe inali m’mbali mwa msewuwo inamuthandiza kuona munthuyo yemwe anavala jekete yong'ambika, komanso thirauza lobookabooka ndipo kumapazi kwake kunalibe nsapato. Movutikira kwambiri, munthu uja anati, “Ndine Éponine.”

Marius anawerama mofulumira ndipo anaona kuti analidi mtsikana yemwe anakulira m’mavuto uja.

“Unabwera kudzatani kuno?” anatero Marius akuyang'ana zovala zachimuna zomwe Éponine anavala. Ke-

nako anayamba kuyang'ana mtsinje wamagazi womwe unali pambali pake ndipo anafumunsa kuti: “Wavulala kwambiri? Dikira ndikunyamule tipite tikalowe m'shopu-mo. Anthu omwe ali m'menemo akukusamalira.”

Éponine anamuonetsa Marius bowo lomwe chipolopolo chija chinapanga padzanja lake.

“Msilikali amafuna kukuwomberani,” anatero Éponine, mawu ake akumveka chapansipansi kwambiri ngati akunong'ona. “Nditaona kuti akufuna kukuphani ndina-thamanga n'kuika dzanja langa kutsogolo kwa mfutiyo.”

“N'chifukwa chiyani unachita zimenezo?” anatero Marius modandaula. “Dikira ndimange mkonowu kuti usataye magazi ambiri. Ukhala bwino usadandaule.”

“Chipolopolocho chinaomba dzanjali,” anatero chapansipansi Éponine, “kenako chinayenda n'kutulukira kumsana kwangu. Musavutike ndi kundisuntha. Chomwe ndikufuna ndi choti mundichitire zinthu zina zomwe zikhoza kundithandiza kuposa zimene dokotala angachite. Takhalani pamwalapa.”

Marius anakhaladi pamwala ndipo Éponine anatsamiritsa mutu wake pamwendo wa Marius.

“Mwina ndingapumeko tsopano. Ndatopa kumangokhala moyo wovutika komanso womangokhalira kumva kuwawa.”

Kwa kanthawi sananenenso chilichonse. Anatenga dzanja lake n'kugwira pachifuwa. Pamalo amenewa pankachucha magazi ooneka ngati vinyo. Kenako movutikira kwambiri, anaika mkono wina uja panso n'kuyesa kuzidzutsa kwinaku akupuma movutikira kwambiri. Anakwanitsadi kukhala panso ndipo anayamba kumuyang'ana Marius m'maso.

“Sindikufuna kufa ndikudziimba mlandu,” anatero Éponine. “Ndili ndi kalata yanu m'thumba mwangamu.

Kalata imeneyi ndakhala nayo kuyambira dzulo koma sindimafuna kupatsani. Ndiye popeza tonse tifera pompapano, mwina kukuuzani kukhoza kukuthandizani pang'ono. Ndikudziwa kuti mumamukonda kwambiri mtsikana uja. Koma kuyambira lero ndaona kuti ndisiye kumuchitira nsanje. Choncho tengani kalata yanu. Mtsikana uja anandipatsira kuti ndidzakupatseni.”

Kenako, ndi dzanja lomwe anawomberedwa lija, anagwira dzanja la Marius n'kulipititsa pathumba limene munali kalatayo. Anachita zimenezi mooneka kuti saku-mva ululu ngakhale pang'ono. Marius anapisa m'thum-balo n'kutulutsamo kalata.

“Ndiye tsopano mundilonjeze chinthu chimodzi,” anatero Éponine. “Dziwani kuti ndikufa chifukwa cha inu. Choncho mukuyenera kundikisa pachipumi ndikangomwalira . . . Mukapanda kuchita zimenezo ndidziwa.”

Kenako anatsamiranso pamwendo wa Marius. Maso ake anatembenuka ndipo sanasunthenso. Pamene Marius ankaganiza kuti wamwalira, mtsikanayo anatsegulanso maso ake n'kunena mawu okoma kwambiri komanso omveka bwino ngati akuyankhula kuchokera m'moyo winawo. Iye anati: “Mukudziwa M. Marius, ndikuganiza kuti ndinayamba kukukondani kwambiri.”

Atangonena mawu amenewo, Éponine anatseka maso ake ndipo sanawatsegulenso.

Marius anamva chisoni kwambiri moti anakisa chipumi cha Éponine. Kenako anamugoneka pansu n'kubwereranso mushopu yogulitsira mowa ija. Kumeneko anatsegula kalata anamupatsa ija n'kuyamba kuwerenga pogwiritsa ntchito kandulo yemwe anali mushopuyo:

*Wokonedwa wanga Marius,
Mosiyana ndi mmene ndimaganizira, zikuoneka ku-*

ti tichoka mofulumira kwambiri. Tinyamuka usiku womwe uno ndipo tizikakhala nyumba Na. 7, ku rue de l'Homme-Armé⁴⁷. Pakangotha sabata imodzi tisamukira ku England.

Cossette, 4 June.

Marius anayamba kukisa kalatayo mpaka inanyowa. Iye anazindikira kuti Cossette adakamukondabe. Kenako anaganizira kwa kanthawi n'kuona kuti akuyenera kuyesetsa kuti asafe. Koma kenako anayamba kuona kuti sizingasinthebe chilichonse. Cossette anali akupita ku England komanso agogo ake anali atakana kumupatsa chilolezo choti akwatire. Choncho anapitirizabe kuona kuti kuli bwino angofa. Koma pali chinthu chimodzi chomwe ankafuna kuchita asanamwalire: Ankafuna kulemba kalata yopita kwa Cossette n'kumuuza za imfa yake. Choncho anapeza pepala n'kulemba kuti:

Wachikondi wanga Cossette.

N'zosatheka kuti iwe ndi ine tikwatirane. Ndinapita kwa agogo anga n'kukawauza zoti ndikufuna kukwatira koma andikaniza. Ndiliba ndalama komanso iweyo ulibe ndalama. Lero ndinapita kwanu kuti ndikakuone, koma ndinakupeza utachoka kale. Wakumbukira zimene ndinakulonjeza zija? Ndiyesetsa kusunga lonjezo limene ndinapanga. Ndikuona kuti ndikuyenera kufa. Ndimakukonda bwenzi langa. N'kutheka kuti ukamawerenga kalatayi, ndikhala nditamwalira kale.

Marius anapinda kalatayo, ndipo analemba adiresi yatsopano ya Cossette pamwamba pake. Kenako anaitana kamnyamata kena.

“Dzina lako ndi ndani?” anafunsa Marius.

“Gavroche.⁴⁸”

“Chabwino, Gavroche, ndimafuna ndikutume. Pali mtsikana winawake amene ndamulemba kalata ndiye ndimafuna ukamupatsire. Adiresi yake ndi iyi ili pamwambayi.”

Mnyamatayo anakanda m'mutu akuganizira pempholo. Kenako, analandira kalatayo n'kuzimiririka mumdima.

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Jean Valjean sankamvetsa kuti chikuchitika n'chiyani. Kwa nthawi yoyamba pa nthawi yonse yomwe anakhalira limodzi, Valjean anali atakangana ndi Cossette chifukwa choti sankafuna kuchoka kunyumba yawo ija. Atakangana kwa kanthawi, Cossette anangogonjera ndipo anthu awiriwa ananyamuka mdima ukuyamba limodzi ndi wantchito wawo, Toussaint⁴⁹. Anthuwa sanatenge katundu wambiri. Komabe, Cossette sanaiwale kutenga kabokosi komwe ankaikamo makalata komanso mapepala olembera makalata. Nayenso Valjean anatenga chikwama chomwe akaikamo yunifomu yake yapadera yomwe anthu onse olemkezeke ankakhala nayo. Yunifomu imeneyi ndi ime ne ankavala pamene anali meya.

Atafika kumene ankasamukira, onse anapita kugona mwakacheteche. Koma m'mawa kutacha, Cossette sanatuluke kuchipinda kwake ndipo Jean Valjean anadya yekha chakudya. Pamene ankadya, Toussaint anamuza kuti m'tauni muli chipwirikiti, koma sanalabadire kwenikweni zimenezi chifukwa ankadera nkhowa kwambiri Cossette. Iye ankaona kuti palibe chinthu chomwe chingakawalepheretse kumakakhala mosangalala ku England. Ngati Cossette akanakhalabe naye, Valjean akanakhala wosangalala, ndipo zikanakhala choncho mosamala kanthu malo amene ali. Iye anayamba kumva bwino mumtima ataganizira ulendo umene anali atangotsala pa-

ng'ono kunyamukawu. Kenako anaimirira kuti atuluke panja koma anaima n'kuyang'ananso pakabati ina pomwe panali galasi. Pamunsi pa galasilo anaona mapepala olemba makalata a Cossette. Mapepalawo analoza kumene kunali galasi lija moti Valjean atayang'ana anaona mawu otsatirawa:

*Wokondedwa wanga Marius,
Mosiya ndi mmene ndimaganzira, zikuoneka ku-
ti tichoka mofulumira kwambiri. Tinyamuka usiku womwe
uno ndipo tizikakhala nyumba Na. 7, ku rue de l'Homme-
Armé. Pakangotha sabata imodzi tisamukira ku England.
Cossette, 4 June.*

Chifukwa choti anali wokhumudwa kwambiri, Cossette anali ataiwala kuchotsa pepala lomwe anagwiritsa ntchito polemba kalata yomwe anatumiza kwa Marius. Anangosiya pepalalo pakabatipo ndipo galasi lija, lomwe linkaonetsa mawuwo mobwerera m'mbuyo, linathandiza kuti uthenga wonse uoneke bwinobwino.

Valjean anayandikira galasilo ndipo anawerenganso kalatayo asakufuna kukhulupirira kuti zimene amawerengazo ndi zoonadi. Sanakaikire ngakhale pang'ono kuti dzanja linalimba kalatayo ndi la Cossette. Atangowerenga kalatayo mphamvu zinamuthera moti anakhala pampando. Sankakhulupirira kuti Cossette angachite zimenezo osamuza. Pofika pa nthawiyi, Valjean anali atakumana ndi mavuto oopsa kwambiri pamoyo wake. Komabe, kwa iye mavuto onsewo sanali kanthu akaganizira zimene Cossette anayamba kuchita. Iye ankaona kuti limeneli ndi vuto lalikulu kwambiri kuposa lililonse lomwe anakumana nalo moti zinkamuwawa kwambiri akaganizira kuti munthu wina wosadziwika bwinobwino ankapereka chiopsezo

cholanda munthu yekhayo amene ankamukonda.

Kenako anayamba kudziyankhulira yekha, “Kuteroko akufuna andisiye?”

Kuganizira mawu amenewa kunamuwawa kwambiri mumtima moti zinkangokhala ngati mtimawo walasidwa ndi lupanga lakuthwa.

Patapita nthawi, anadzuka n’kuyang’ananso pepala lija. Mkwiyo wake komanso nkhwawa yomwe anali nayo mphindi zapitazo zinali zitatsika tsopano. Atayang’ananso pepalalo, mdima wandiweyani unaphimbanso moyo wake. Iye anakumbukira bwinobwino mnyamata yemwe ankakonda kubwera kugaladeni ya Luxembourg, yemwe ankadyerera maso pa Cossette. Valjean sankakaika kuti mnyamata ameneyo ndi yemwe Cossette anamulemba kalata.

Kenako anatuluka panja n’kukakhala pamasitepe kuti mwina mtima wake ungatsike. Anakhala kwa nthawi yaitali akumvetsera kulira kwa mfuti komwe kunkamveka patali mumzinda wa Paris kwinaku akuganizira mmene angamukhawulitsire mnyamatayo yemwe ankafuna kuba mwana wake. Koma kenako anangoona kamnyamata koonda katulukira. Kamnyamataka kanali katavala nsanza ndipo kankayang’ana manambala a nyumba zomwe zinali mumsewu womwe kankayenda.

Kamnyamatako kataona Valjean atakhala pamasi-tepe, kanaima n’kufunsa kuti: “Kodi bambo, mumakhala kuno?”

“Inde, bwanji?”

“Ndikufuna nyumba Na. 7. Ndinatumidwa kuti ndidzapereke kalata iyi kwa mtsikana yemwe amakhala m’nyumba imeneyo.”

“Mtsikana ameneyo ndi mwana wanga. Ukhoza kundipatsira ndikam’patse. Koma funso limodzi usana-

pite,” anatero Valjean kamnyamatako katamupatsa kalatayo. “Wakupatsira kalatayi ndi ndani?”

“Yachokera kumene anthu akumenyanaku, ku rue de la Chanvrerie,” kanatero kamnyamatako. “Basi nkhani ndinabwerera ndi imeneyi. Tionana.”

Jean Valjean analowanso m’nyumba akuganizira mawu amene ankadumphadumphapha pakalatayo: *Ndiyenera kufa . . . N’kutheka kuti ukamawerenga kalatayi, ndikhala nditamwalira . . .*

Mawu amenewa anachititsa kuti mtima wake womwe unadzaza ndi mkwiyo komanso kufuna kubwezera ukhalenso ndi chimwemwe. Apa vuto limene anali nalo linali litatha. Mnyamata yemwe ankafuna kumulanda chimwemwe chake anali atangotsala pang’ono kufa, ndipo mwina n’kuthekanso kuti anali atafa kale.

Koma kenako anayamba kuona kuti mwina Marius adakali ndi moyo. Komabe ngakhale zikanakhala choncho, palibe chomwe chikanasintha. Ngati Marius akanafa ndiye kuti chimwemwe cha Valjean chikanapitirira. Choncho anaganiza zongosunga kalatayo m’thumba mwake. Ankaona kuti akatero, Cossette sakanadziwa chimene chachitika ndipo moyo wake ukanapitirira kukhala wosangalala ngati mmene unalili asanakumane ndi mnyamatayo.

Koma chimwemwe chake sichinakhalitse moti nkhwawa inabweranso pankhope pake. Zinkangokhala ngati kunja komwe kunali dzuwa kwachitanso mitambo. Valjean anazindikira kuti ngati akufuna kuti Cossette akhalebe wosangalala, ayenera kupulumutsa moyo wa bwenzi lakelo. Ankafunika kuchita zimenezi ngakhale mnyamatayo anali mmodzi mwa anthu omwe ankadana nawo kwambiri padziko lonse.

Patatha ola limodzi, Valjean anatulukanso panja atavala yunifomu yake yapadera. Pamene ankachoka ku-

nyumbaku anatenganso mfuti yake, atadzadzitsa thumba lake ndi zipolopolo. Kenako ananyamuka n’kumalowera kumene kunkamenyedwa nkondo kuja.

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Tsopano zigawenga zija zinali zitapunguka. Apa n’kuti zitatsala 37 zokha basi. Zigawengazi zinkamenya nkondo molimbikira kwambiri kwinaku zina zikupanga zipolopolo. Shopu yogulitsira mowa ija inali itasanduka chipatala ndipo matupi a anthu akufa ambirimbiri ankatutidwa n’kumakaponyedwa mumsewu wina womwe unali pakati pa zimilu ziwiri zomwe anatsekera msewu zija. Anayi mwa anthu omwe anafa anali apolisi ndipo mayunifomu awo anavulidwa ndi zigawenga zija.

Umenewu unali mwayi woti anthu ena akanatha kuthawa pamalowa atavala mayunifomuwa. Choncho Enjolras anayamba kukambirana ndi anzake aja zokhudza mayunifomuwo. Pamapeto pake anaona kuti amuna okwatura (omwe analipo 5) apatsidwe mwayi woti achoke pamalowa.

“Inuyo simukufunika kufa,” anatero Enjolras. “Bwererani kumabanja anu chifukwa mukafa avutika kwambiri.”

“Koma tichoka bwanji?” anatero amunawo. “Asilikalitu atizungulira. Tikangoyerekeza kuchoka pano atiwombera.”

“Mukhoza kuvala mayunifomu awa,” anatero Enjolras akuloza mayunifomu aja.

“Komatu alipo anayi okha,” anatero Marius.

“Ndiye kuti mmodzi wa ife ayenera kutsala kuti

amenye nkondo,” anatero mmodzi wa amuna okwatira aja.

Anthuwa anakambirana nkhanayi kwa nthawi yai-tali, ndipo aliyense ankayesa kulimbikitsa anzake kuti avale mayunifomuwo n’kuchoka pamalowo.

“Iwe, sankha amene ukuona kuti atsale!” anatero wina akuloza Marius.

Marius anasowa chochita. Iye ankadziwa kuti munthu angamusankheyo akatsala aphedwa. Kenako anayamba kuyang’ana mayunifomu anayi aja. Pamene ankachita zimenezo, yunifomu ya nambala 5 inangopezeka kuti yagwera pamapazi ake mozizwitsa.

Atacheuka, anaona bambo a Cossette. Jean Valjean, yemwe anafika pamalowa mosaonekera, ankamvetsera zokambirana zawozo ndipo anamvetseta kuti zinthu zinalidi zitafika povuta n’kupereka yunifomu yakeyo.

“Apatu ndiye mwayi wapezeka woti nonse mukhoza kumapita kwanu,” anatero Marius.

Kunja kunayamba kuwala, koma palibe amene anayerekeza kutsegula chitseko kapena windo mumsewu muja. Chimulu cha zinthu chija chinali chitalimbitsidwa kwammbiri kuposa pa nthawi yomwe asilikali anaukira ulendo woyamba uja ndipo zigawengazo zinali zitakonzekeranso kuyamba kumenya nkondo.

Posakhalitsa kunayamba kumveka phokoso loopsa ndipo zigawenga zija zinaona chakumapeto kwa msewuwo kukubwera asilikali akukoka chimfuti chophulitsira mabomba. Nthawi yomweyo zigawengazo zinayamba kuomba mfuti. Pamalowo panadzazanso utsi ndipo pamene unkakamuka, zigawengazo zinaona kuti asilikali aja akubwerabe ndipo palibe amene anavulala. Asilikaliwo analozetsa chimfuti chija kumene kunali zigawengazo ndipo kenako panamveka kuphulika koswa makutu. Chibomba

chomwe chinatsomphoka muchimfuticho chinagwera pafupi ndi chimulu chija ndipo chinaphulika moopsa, koma palibe amene anavulala. Zigawenga zija zitaona zimenezo zinayamba kuomba m’manja komanso kusangalala.

Asilikali ambiri anayamba kutulukira kumapeto kwa msewu uja n’kumaima kumbuyo kwa chimfuti chija ndipo nawonso anayamba kuunjika miyala yosweka n’kumanga khoma lodzitezera. Kenako mtsogoleri wa chimfuti chija anauza asilikali ake kuti alozetse chimfuticho m’mwamba pang’ono.

“Aliyense abisale!” anatero Enjolras.

Chimfuti chija chinaphulikanso ndipo bomba lina-tsomphoka n’kukagwera pambali pa khoma lina lomwe linali pafupi ndi zigawenga zija. Bombali linapha anthu awiri komanso kuvulaza anthu atatu.

“Tisalole kuti zangati zimenezi zichitikenso,” anatero Enjolras. Kenako anakwera pamwamba pa zinthu zija n’kukalozetsa mfuti yake kwa munthu yemwe ankaomba chimfuti chija ndipo anawombera. Munthu amene anali pachimfuticho, yemwe anali watsitsi lokongola komanso wooneka bwino, anabadulidwa ndi chipolopolochi n’kugwera pansi chafufumimba. Magazi anayamba kuchucha kuchokera pamimba komanso kumsana kwake.

“N’zomvetsa chisoni bwanji?” anatero Enjolras akuyang’ana Marius yemwe anaima pambali pake. “Munthuyu akuoneka kuti anali ndi tsogolo lowala ndithu. Koma taonani pamene wathera!”

* * *

Nkhondoyo inapitirira kwa kanthawi ndipo chimfuti chophulitsa mabomba chija chinaponya bomba lina lomwe linaphulikira pawindo la shopu yogulitsira mowa ija ndipo

linasesanso zinthu zina zomwe zinali pachimulu chinatseka msewu chija. Komabe, zigawengazo sizinabwerere m'mbuyo. Izi zitangochitika, zinayamba kubweza moto ndipo zinaomba mfuti moopsa n'kupulula asilikali ambiri-mbiri. Pa nthawi, zigawengazo zinkati zikamaikanso zipolopolo mumfuti zawo, zinkatha kumva phokoso la kumenyana m'madera enanso a mzinda wa Paris. Zimenezi zinkawalimbisa mtima chifukwa ankadziwa kuti sali okha. Ankadziwa kuti posakhalitsa thandizo libwera. Komabe, chiyembekezo chimenechi sichinakhalitse. Pamene inkatha 30 minitsi, kulira kwa mfuti komwe kunkamveka m'madera ena kuja kunali kutasiya ndipo zigawengazo zinadziwa kuti zatsala zokha. Kenako anangozindikira kuti kwabweranso chimfuti china chophulitsa mabomba. Chimfutichi chinaikidwa pambali pa choyamba chija ndipo zigawengazo zinadziwa kuti zawo zada.

Zimifuti ziwirizi zinayankhula mwaukali kwambiri ndipo zinkavomerezedwa ndi mfuti ya asilikali aja omwe anaima chapatali komanso ena anakwera m'madenga a nyumba zomwe zinali m'mbali mwa msewuwo. Ngakhale zinali chonchi, zigawengazo zinapitirizabe kumenya nkondo mwanzeru, kungoti zinali ndi zipolopolo zochepa. Pofika tsopano, pamalowa panali patatsala zigawenga 26 zokha, ndipo asilikali aja anali atangotsala pang'ono kulanda chimulu chachikulu chija. Anthu ena, kuphatikizapo Marius, ankamenyabe nkondo adakali pachimuluchi, pomwe ena anamanga mpanda wamiyala pafupi ndi shopu yogulitsira mowa ija. Enjolras, anapita kukalowa mkati mwa shopu ija ndipo anatembenukira kumene kunali Javert, yemwe anali adakali chimangidwire kuchitsulo.

“Iwetu usaganize kuti ndakuiwala,” anatero Enjolras akuika mfuti yodzaza ndi zipolopolo patebulo. “Mu-

nthu womalizira kuchoka pamalo ano akuboola mutu ndi chipolopolo.”

Pa nthawi imeneyi Jean Valjean anayankhula ndi Enjolras.

“Kodi munthu amene akutsogolera anthuwa ndi inuyo eti? Ndingakupempheniko chinthu chimodzi?”

“Inuyo mwapulumutsa munthu pomupatsa yunifomu yanu. Mukufunikiradi kupatsidwa mphoto. Mukufuna ndikuchitireni chiyani?”

“Ndiloleni kuti ndiphe munthuyu.”

“Zili bwino,” anatero Enjolras ndipo anthu omwe anali mushopuyo sanatsutse. “Mukonzeni ndithu kazitapeyu.”

Pa nthawi imeneyo kunayambanso kumveka kulira kwa ng’oma ndipo kenako kunamveka mfuwu yaikulu.

“Akubweratu asilikali aja!” anakuwa Marius kuchokera pamwamba pa chimulu chija.

Zigawenga zomwe zinali mushopu zija zinatuluka n’kupita pamalo awo, ndipo zinasiya Valjean ali ndi Javert. Valjean anamasula chingwe chomwe anamangira Javert kuchitsulo chija ndipo anamugwira lamba n’kutuluka naye panja. Ndi Marius yekha amene anaona zimenezi. Valjean anapitirizabe kukoka Javert mfuti ili m’manja n’kumalowera mbali ya kumene kunali chimulu china chija. Kumeneko, anapita pamalo enaake obisika. Pafupi ndi malo amenewa panali chimulu chachikulu cha anthu akufa ndipo mmodzi wa anthu amenewa anali Éponine, mtsikana yemwe anavala zovala zachimuna uja.

“Ndikuganiza kuti ndikumudziwa mtsikana wagona apoyo,” anatero Javert ataona thupi la Éponine.

“Sindikukaikira kuti nanenso ukundidziwa,” anatero Jean Valjean.

“Mukhoza kuchita nane chilichonse chimene muku-

funa,” anatero Javert podzipereka kwa munthu anamutenga kuti akamupheyo.

Koma Valjean anatulutsa mpeni n’kudula chingwe chomwe anthu aja anamanga nacho manja a Javert.

“Ukhoza kumapita m’bale wanga,” anatero Valjean.

Javert anangoima n’kumamuyang’ana asakukhulupirira. Kenako Valjean anawonjezera kuti, “Sindikuganiza kuti ndichoka pamalo ano wamoyo. Koma ngati nditapuluma, ndimakhala nyumba Na. 7, ku rue de l’Homme-Armé.”

Javert anamanga mabatani a chijasi chake nkhope yake ikuoneka yodabwa kwambiri. Ndiyeno anayamba kuyenda molowera kumsika. Pamene ankachoka pamalowo, anatembenuka n’kuyang’ananso Valjean.

“Zimene zachitikazi n’zochititsa manyazi kwambiri,” anatero Javert. “Moti zikanakhala bwino mukanangondipha.”

“Basi zipitani achimwene,” anatero Valjean.

Javert anayamba kuyenda pang’onopang’ono ndipo Valjean, anadikirira kuti abisike kaye ndi khoma la nyumba ina. Kenako anawombera m’mwamba n’kubwereranso kumene kunali zigawenga zija.

“Ndamukonza kazitape uja,” anatero Valjean pope-reka lipoti la zimene anali atangomaliza kumene kuchita.

* * *

Mfuti zinayambiranso kulira moswa makutu ndipo asilikali aja anayamba kuthamangira kumene kunali chimulu chachikulu kuja. Ambiri mwa asilikaliwa anathotholedwa, koma ena anakwanitsa kufika pachimulicho. Ulendo umenewu zigawenga zija zinawachenjerera, koma asilika-

liwo anapitirizabe kuukira maulendo angapo. Posakhalitsa malo omwe anali pansi pa chimulu chija anadzaza ndi mitambo komanso anthu ovulala. Asilikaliwo ndi zigawenga zija anapitirizabe kuwomberana. Zigawengazo zinkadziwa kuti zikapanda kuchita chamuna ndiye kuti asilikaliwo alanda chimulacho ndipo ziwavuta. Nkhondo inapitirizabe kumenyedwa ndipo asilikali aja anayamba kupanikiza zigawengazo.

Posakhalitsa zinayamba kubwerera m'mbuyo ndipo zinathawa pachimulu chija n'kukabisala pakakhoma kamiyala komwe kanamangidwa pafupi ndi shopu yogulitsira mowa ija. Enanso ankawombera ataima pafupi ndi pakhomo lolowera m'shopuyo. Mmodzimmodzi wa zigawengazo anayamba kuthawira m'shopu muja mpaka pamene onse anachoka kupatulapo Enjolras ndi Marius. Pamene anthu awiriwa ankathawa pamalowa kuti akalowe m'shopu ija, chipolopolo champhulupulu chinaomba phewa la Marius. Ululu womwe anamva pamenepo unali woopsa moti anatseka maso ake n'kuyamba kugwa. Koma munthu wina anamuwakha asanafike pansi.

"Apa ndiye kwanga kwatha basi," anatero muntima mwake Marius atangotsala pang'ono kukomoka.

Posakhalitsa asilikali aja anafikanso pashopu ija ndipo anamenya nkhondo mpaka kugwetsa chitseko cha shopuyo. Enjolras ndi zigawenga zina zowerengeka zomwe zinali zidakali moyo, anapitirizabe kumenya nkhondo mwanzeru, kungoti asilikaliwo ankakula mphamvu kwambiri. Mmodzi ndi mmodzi anayamba kuthotholedwa ndipo posakhalitsa onse anazimitsidwa. Enjolras ndi amene anali womalizira kuphedwa. Iye sankafuna kugonja moti anafa mpeni uli m'manja, atazunguliridwa ndi asilikali omwe ankamuwaza ndi mvula ya zipolopolo. Enjolras anagwera pansi n'kumwalira akumwetulira.

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Munthu amene anawakha Marius atangowomberedwa paphewa uja anali Jean Valjean. Valjean sanamenye nawo nkondoyi. Iye ankangogwira ntchito yotolera anthu ovulala n'kumawasamalira. Ankachita zimenezi zipolopolo zikuuluka paliponse. Marius atangowomberedwa, Valjean anathamanga n'kukamuwakha, kenako anamunyamula adakali chikomokere n'kuthawira naye mumsewu wina waung'ono womwe unali kuseri kwa shopu yogulitsira mowa ija. Atafika kumeneko, anaika Marius pansu n'kuyamba kufufuza njira yoti athawire.

Valjean anazindikira kuti zinthu zavuta. Zinkaonekeratu kuti palibe kothawira. Mbali zonse za msewuwo kunali asilikali osawerengeka. Ngakhaleonso kumbuyo kwake kunali asilikali osawerengeka. Asilikaliwo ankangokhala ngati mikango yolusa yomwe inkafuna kuwakha nyama iliyonse yomwe ikuthawa. Onse anali tcheru kuti akangoona munthu akuyenda m'tinjirato amuwombere. Choncho kulikonse kumene akanathawira akanaphedwabe basi. Pamene zinthu zinafika panali poti ndi mbalame yokha yomwe ikanakwanitsa kuthawa pamalowa. Valjean anapitirizabe kuyang'ana pansu pafupi ndi khoma lomwe linali m'mbali mwa msewuwo. Kenako anaona m'buliro wothawira.

Pamalo ena omwe panawunjikidwa miyala komanso matabwa, panali phanga lomwe linavindikiridwa ndi

chitsulo. Valjean anathamangira pamalowo ndipo anagwiritsa ntchito mphamvu zake zonse kuchotsa miyala komanso matabwa aja. Kenako anavundukula chitsulo chija n'kuchiika pambali. Atatero anathamangira pamene panali Marius n'kukamunyamula n'kumuika paphewa. Posakhailitsa anafika paphanga paja n'kulowa pansi. Muphangalo munali mdima wandiweyani.

Valjean anayamba kuyenda m'njira yomwe anapeza pansipo ndipo sankamva phokoso lililonse kupatulapo la mapazi ake. Iye anali atalowa m'njira yodutsa zonyansa yomwe inali pansi pa mzinda wa Paris. Valjean anali atazunguliridwa ndi makoma okhaokha ndipo ankati akamayang'ana ankangoonanso mdima okhaokha. Iye ankadziwa kuti asilikali aja akhoza kuzindikira kuti walowa m'phangali choncho anapitirizabe kuyenda ataika Marius paphewa, zovala zake zitanyowa ndi magari a Marius.

Valjean anapitirizabe kuyenda akufufuza njira ndi dzanja lake pomagwira makoma onyowa komanso oterera a phangalo. Pansipo panali tinjira tambirimбири ndipo ankati kulowa kanjira aka kenako n'kulowanso kena. Maulendo angapo anaterereka chifukwa cha madzi onyansa omwe anali pansi pa njirayo. Iye ankadziwa kuti akufunika kutsata tinjira tomwe tinkayenda motserereka kuti akatulukire kumtsinje.

Valjean anayenda asakuona chilichonse kwa nthawi yaitali. Zovala zake zinali zitanyowa ndi magari omwe ankatuluka paphewa pa Marius ndipo ankamva kupuma kwakung'ono kwambiri pafupi ndi khutu lake. Anapitirizabe kuponya mapazi mkatikati mwa mdimawo. Akamayenda, nthawi zina ankamva kulira kwa mfuti komwe kunkamveka mwa apa ndi apo m'misewu ya Paris pamwamba pake.

Kenako mwadzidzidzi, anaona chithunzithunzi cha-

ke pansi m'kanjira kaja. Atatembenuka, anaona kuwala chapatali. Anthu ena anali akumutsatira. Nthawi yomweyo anadzipanikiza pakhoma lina kuti athuwo asamuone ndipo anagwira mpumo wake n'kumadikirira. Chapatali, asilikali angapo anali akubwera ndipo asilikaliwo ananyamula mifuti komanso matochi. Iwo ankaoneka kuti akumvetsera mwatcheru kuti aone ngati angamve phokoso losonyeza kuti mphangalo mwalowa munthu. Koma Valjean sana-sunthe moti kenako amuna aja anabwerera ndipo Valjean anakhalanso muchindima chandiweyani.

Valjean anayambanso kuyenda m'njira yodutsa nyansiyo. Nthawi zina kanjirako kankachepa kwambiri moti ankafunika kumayenda chowerama. Kanjirako kanali koterera kwambiri moti nthawi zingapo ankafuna kugwa. Vuto linanso la kanjiraka ndi loti munalibe mpweya wokwanira komanso munali fungo loipa. Kenako, atatoperatu, anaima pamalo ena pomwe pamwamba pake panali chitsulo chachikulu. Pamalowa pankalowa kuwala komanso kampweya kabwinoko. Iye anaika Marius pansi n'kuyamba kumuyang'ana mwachidwi. Nkhope ya Marius inali ili magari okhaokha komanso inali itasinthiratu ngati ya munthu wakufa. Valjean anang'amba malaya ake n'kumanga bala la Marius kuti asapitirize kutaya magari. Kenako anawerama n'kuyamba kuyang'ana Marius ndi mkwiyo waukulu. Nkhope ya Marius inali ili magari okhaokha.

Atamupitsa m'thumba, anapezamo zinthu ziwiri: chidutswa cha buledi komanso waleti. Valjean anadya chidutswa cha buledicho. Kenako anatsegula waleti ija n'kopezamo kalata yomwe Marius analemba:

Dzina langa ndi Marius Pontmercy. Thupi langa liyenera kutengedwa n'kupititsidwa kwa agogo anga M. Gillenormand, omwe amakhala msewu wa Na. 6 rue des

*Filles-du-Calvaire, ku Marais*⁵⁰.

Valjean anapitiriza kubwereza adiresiyo mpaka pamene anailoweza. Kenako anaibwezeretsa m'thumba mwa Marius. Atatero ananyamulanso Marius n'kumapitiriza ulendo wake. Iye sankadziwa kuti akuyendera mbali iti ya mzinda wa Paris komanso sankadziwa kuti wayenda mtunda wautali bwanji. Chomwe ankadziwa ndi chakuti kuwala komwe kunkaonekera m'mipata yomwe inali m'mwamba mwake kunkangocheperacheperabe zomwe zinkasonyeza kuti mwina dzuwa likupita kukalowa. Pamalo ena ankafunika kulowa m'madzi onyansa omwe anali akuya kulekeza m'chiuno ndipo pamalo ngati amenewa ankavutika kuyenda chifukwa cha matope omwe anali pansu pa madziwo.

Kenako pamene mphamvu zake zinkayamba kuche- pa, anaona kuwala kutsogolo kwake. Kunali kuwala kookhala ngati kwa masana. Atangoona kuwalako mphamvu zinamubwereranso ndipo ankazindikira kuti watsala pang'ono kutuluka m'phangalo. Iye anaiwaliratu kulemera kwa Marius yemwe anali paphewa pake, komanso njala ndi kutopa kwake. Valjean anapitirizabe kuthamanga molowera kumene kunali kuwala kuja. Koma atangoyandikira, anaima chilili n'kuyamba kung'ung'udza modandaula. Anapeza kuti phangalo linali lotsekedwa ndi chitsulo cholimba kwambiri ndipo kuseri kwa chitsulocho kunalinso chimwala chachikulu chokhala ndi ndere. Kudzera pachitsulocho, Valjean ankatha kuona bwinobwino mtsinje womwe unali kunjako. Koma vuto ndi loti sakanatha kutuluka.

Valjean anatsitsa Marius n'kumukhazika pamalo ena ouma. Kenako anayamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali chitsulo kuja, anayesa kuchigwedeza ndi mphamvu zake zonse, koma analemphera. Chitsulocho chinali cho-

limba zedi.

Valjean anatembenuka n'kukhala pansu motaya mtima ndipo mutu wake unagweratu ndi nkhwawa. Palibe chomwe akanachita kuti atuluke ndipo anayamba kukaikira kuti atuluka m'phangalo ali wamoyo. Kenako anayamba kuganizira za Cossette.

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Ali wotaya mtima chonchi, Valjean anangomva dzanja la munthu wina limugwira paphewa. Iye ankangoona ngati ali kutulo. Nthawi yomweyo anatembenuka n'kuona munthu yemwe anavala zovala zakutha ali kumbuyo kwake. Ngakhale zinachitika mosayembekezereka, Valjean anazindikira munthuyo atangomuona. Anali Thénardier. Valjean sanasonyeze kuti wamuzindikira ndipo mtima wake unakhala m'malo atadziwa kuti Thénardier sanamuzindikire.

“Ndikhoza kukuthandizani kutuluka m'menemo ngati mutandilonjeza chinthu chimodzi,” anatero Thénardier.

“Mukutanthauza chiyani?”

Thénardier analoza Marius ndi mutu wake.

“Mwaphatu munthu inu. Koma ngati mutandilonjeza kuti mundipatsa theka la ndalama zimene mwamufwamba ndikhoza kukutsegulirani.” Kenako anatulutsa kiyi wamkulu komanso chingwe kuchokera m'thumba mwake, kenako anatsegula chitsulo chija n'kulowa. “Ndikupatsaninso zinthu izi,” anatero munthuyo. “Ndiyeno mukatuluka mukhoza kumangirira mtembowo ndi mwala pogwiritsa ntchito chingwechi kenako n'kuuponyera mumtsinje.”

Valjean analandira chingwe chija popanda kunena

chilichonse.

“Ndipatseni kaye ndalama yangayo!” anatero Thénardier.

Valjean anatulutsa 30 francs kuchokera m’thumba mwake ndipo anamuonetsa Thénardier yemwe anayang’ana ndalamayo mokhumudwa kwambiri.

“Kuteroko mwapha munthuyu chifukwa cha 30 francs basi? Ndinu wopusa bwanji!” anatero Thénardier akuyesanso kufufuza ndalama zina m’matumba mwa Marius. Ataona kuti mulibe kanthu, anatembenukira kwa Valjean n’kuyambanso kumupisa m’matumba, koma sanapezemonso kanthu.

“Kuteroko ndi zoona?” anatero pamapeto pake. “Ndalama zake ndi zomwezi basi. Okhe chabwino, ndisachite zinthu mouma mtima. Nditenga zomwezi basi, mungaganize kuti si ine munthu wokoma mtima.”

Thénardier anatenga 30 francs ija ndipo anathandiza Valjean kunyamula Marius n’kumuika paphewa. Kenako anaika kiyi paloko uja n’kutsegula pang’ono kuti Valjean angokwanapo. Valjean atangotuluka, Thénardier anatsekanso chitsulocho ndipo analowa mumdima wa phangalo ngati khoswe.

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Valjean anaika Marius pa udzu ndipo kenako anaimirira n’kuyamba kumwaza maso ake ndipo sanaone munthu aliyense. Iye anamva bwino kwambiri kupitidwa kamphepo kayeziyezi komwe kanali m’mbali mwa mtsinjewo. Ndiyeno pamene ankati aziwerama kuti azikapiza madzi pa nkhope ya Marius, anangozindikira kuti munthu wina waima kumbuyo kwake. Nthawi yomweyo anatembenuka ndipo anaona munthu wantali yemwe anavala chijasi

chake. Munthuyo anali atanyamula chikwapu. Ngakhale nkhope ya munthuyo sanaione, Valjean anazindikira kuti ndi Insipekita Javert.

Poyamba Javert sanamuzindikire Valjean. Iye anka-ngofuna kugwira Thénardier, yemwe anathawa kundende. Javert anali atamva zoti Thénardier ali m’deralo choncho ankamusakasaka kuti amugwire.

“Kodi ndinu ndani?” anafunsa Javert.

Valjean anamuuza dzina lake n’kuimirira ndipo Javert anayamba kumuyang’anititsa m’maso.

“Insipekita Javert,” anatero Valjean chapansipansi. “Ndikukupemphani kuti mundithandize kuperekeza munthuyu kwawo. Ndikulonjeza kuti sindiyesa kuthawa. Paja ndinakupatsani kale adiresi yanga m’kawawu, choncho mukudziwa kale kumene mungandipeze.”

Javert ankangokhala ngati sakumva. Ankangoyang’ana mwachidwi m’maso mwa Valjean ndipo anachita zimenezi kwa nthawi yaitali zedi. Kenako anayamba kubwerera m’mbuyo akuoneka kuti wasokonezeka kwammbiri.

“Mukutani kuno? Nanga munthu wagona apayu ndi ndani?” anafunsa Javert.

“Munthu ameneyu wavulala kwambiri ndipo ndikufuna ndikamusiye kwawo?”

Javert ankaoneka wosasangalala, koma sanakane kuthandiza Valjean moti anawerama akutulutsa kansalu kopukutira thukuta m’thumba mwake ndipo anakanyowetsa ndi madzi amumtsinje muja n’kuyamba kupukuta chipumi cha Marius chomwe chinali magazi okhaokha. Kenako anagwira mkono wa Marius n’kuona ngati ali moyo.

“Wafatu munthuyu,” anatero Javert.

“Ayi, sanafe,” anayankha Valjean akupisa m’thu-

mba mwa Marius kuti atulutse waleti ija. “Taonani,” anatero akumuonetsa Javert kakalata komwe kanali ndi adiresi ya agogo a Marius. “Kumeneku n’kumene tikufunika kupita naye munthuyu.”

Javert anakuwira woyendetsa galeta yemwe anali chapatali ndipo posakhalitsa anatulukira. Anthuwa anathanidizana kunyamula Marius n’kumuika kumbuyo kwa galetayo ndipo Valjean ndi Javert anakhala kutsogolo. Kenako woyendetsa galetayo anakwapula mahatchi ndipo anayamba kuuluka mumdimba wa bo-o womwe unali usikuwo. Iwo anadutsa misewu ya Paris ili zi-i ngati anthu onse anasamuka.

Atafika kunyumba kwa M. Gillenormand, anaodira ndipo wantchito anatuluka.

“Kodi M. Gillenormand amakhala kuno?” anafunsa Javert.

“Inde, mukuwafuna?”

“Eya, tabwera ndi munthu, yemwe zikuoneka kuti ndi chidzukululu chawo. Akuoneka kuti wamwalira. Pita ukawadzutse agogo akewo kuti abwere kuno. Ifeyo tikupita kukatsitsa thupi lake.”

Javert ndi Valjean komanso woyendetsa galeta uja anayamula Marius n’kulowa naye m’nyumba ndipo anakamuika pasofa yomwe inali pamalo ochezera m’nyumba ya M. Gillenormand. Wantchito wina anachoka chothamanga kukaitana dokotala ndipo wina anathamangira kuchipinda kukatenga mabedishiti kuti afumunditse. Valjean anangozindikira Javert atamugwira dzanja ndipo anamvetse zimene ankafuna. Mwaulemu anangoyamba kumutsa-tira mpaka kutuluka panja akuyenda kumbuyo kwake. Atafika panjapo anakweranso galeta lija ndipo Valjean anati: “Insipekita, kodi mungandichitireko chinthu chimo-dzi musanandimange?”

“Mukufuna ndikuchitireni chiyani?” Javert anayankha mofulumira.

“Mundilole kuti ndipite kunyumba kwanga kwa kanthawi kochepe. Tikachita zimenezo, mukhoza kuchita nane chilichonse chimene mukufuna.”

Javert anakhala du-u kwa kanthawi atalowetsa chibwano chake m’kolala ya chijasi chomwe anavala. Kenako anatsitsa galasi lomwe linali kutsogolo kwa galetayo n’kunena kuti: “Tikupita nyumba Na. 7, ku rue de l’Homme-Armé,” anatero kwa woyendetsa galeta uja.

Anthu awiriwa sanayankhulanenso pamene ankayenda ulendowu. Kenako anatulukira ku rue de l’Homme-Armé, womwe unali waung’ono moti galetalo silikana kwana. Choncho Javert ndi Valjean anatsika ndipo Javert analipira woyendetsa galeta uja. Kenako anatsagana ndi Valjean kunyumba kwake.

“Mukhoza kulowa,” anatero Javert akumuyang’ana modabwitsa. “Ndikudikirani panja pano.”

Valjean analowa m’nyumba. Koma atangoyenda pang’ono, anaima n’kusuzumira pawindo ndipo anadabwa kuona kuti Javert panalibe. Anali atapita.

M’mawa wa tsiku lotsatira thupi la Insipekita Javert linapezeka likuyandama mumtsinje wina. Munthu womvetsa chisoniyu, anachita zimenezi chifukwa sankamvetsa kuti n’chifukwa chiyani munthu amene ankamudziwa monga chigawenga choopsa ankachita zinthu zodabwitsa ngati zimenezi. Sankayembekezera kuti munthu ameneyu angakhale wabwino komanso wachifundo chonchi. Iye ankaona kuti anangotaya nthawi yake posakasaka komanso kudana ndi munthu wopanda chifukwa ngati ameneyu. Choncho anapsa mtima kwambiri n’kupita kukadzipha podziponyera m’madzi pamlatho wina. Iye ankaona kuti imeneyi ndiye njira yokhayo yomwe akanathawira kudzi-

imba mlandu komwe kunkamusautsa mumtima mwake.

Pamene M. Gillenormand ankaona thupi la chidzukululu chawo chija litagonekedwa pa sofa, anachita mantha kwambiri. Iwo anagwira chitseko mphamvu zitawathera n'kunena kuti, "Marius mwana wanga!"

"Anthu enaake ndi amene abwera naye," anatero wantchito uja. "Zikuoneka kuti amalimbana ndi asilikali ndiye . . ."

"Waphedwa!" anatero munthu wachikulireyo akulira mowawidwa mtima. "Mwana ameneyu ndi wopusa kwabasi! Kuterokotu wachita zimenezi kuti andimvetse kuwawa, mwana wasayamika ameneyu. Ndinayesetsa kumuchitira zabwino, koma tsopano taonani njira imene wasankha kuti andithokozere."

Munthu wachikulireyo anayenda molowera kuwindo akukhala ngati akuuza mdima womwe unali usikuwo mmene ankamvera kuwawa komanso chisoni chimene anali nacho potaya chidzukululu chake. Pa nthawi imeneyi m'pamene dokotala uja anatulukira. Atamvetsera mtima wa Marius, anauza antchito aja kuti amunyamule n'kukamugoneka kuchipinda china. Atamuthandiza anabwerera kumene kunali M. Gillenormand omwe anali adakali chimire pawindo paja.

"Akhala ndi moyo koma?" anafunsa M. Gillenormand nkhope yawo ili ndi mantha.

"Apo ndiye sitinganeneretu," anayankha dokotalayo. "Koma pamene wawomberedwapo sikuti ndi podetsa nkhawa kwambiri. Vuto ndi loti wavulala kwambiri m'mutu. Choncho sitinganeneretu . . ."

Atangomva zimenezo, M. Gillenormand anathama-

ngira kuchipinda kumene kunagonekedwa Marius.

“Mwana wopanda chisoni iwe,” anatero modandaula. “Zooni iwe ungasankhe kumalimbana ndi asilikali m’malo momasangalala ndi moyo wako? Ndiwe mwana wamtundu wanjini iwe? Kodi ndiwe wamisala? Ndiye ukuganiza kuti ineyo ndizikhala bwanjini m’dzikoli ndekhandekha? Ndiyetu kuli bwino nanenso ndingomwalira! Ndipo iweyo ukhala wopha munthu, chigawenga chouma mtima chopha munthu . . .”

Pa nthawi imeneyo, maso a Marius anatseguka ndipo anayang’ana agogo ake aja mwachidwi.

“Marius!” anakuwa motero agogowo. “Marius mwana wanga, chidzukululu changa! Kuteroko uli moyo?”

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Marius anakhala kwa nthawi yaitali akudwala mwakayakaya ndipo pa nthawi yonsezi ankangokhalira kutchula dzina la Cossette.

“Muyenera kusamala ndi zimene mungamuuze kufikira atawongokera,” dokotala uja anachenjeza amene ankamusamalira.

Tsiku lililonse, malinga ndi zimene wantchito wina ananena, munthu wina wachikulire yemwe ankavala bwino kwambiri, ankabwera n’kumafunsa kuti Marius akupeza bwanji.

Kenako, patadutsa miyezi itatu, dokotala ananena kuti Marius wayamba kupeza bwino moti ananena kuti zikapitirira ndiye kuti achira bwinobwino. Komabe ankafunika kumangokhala osachita chilichonse chifukwa cha phewa lake lovulala lija. M. Gillenormand anasangalala kwambiri kuona kuti chidzukululu chawo chayamba kupeza bwino. Iwo anayamba kuchita zinthu zomwe aliyense sankayembekezera. Zikuoneka kuti nthawi zina ankangodzuka n’kumangoti uku alowera, uku alowera. Ulendo wina anafika mpaka popereka maluwa kwa mayi wina wokongola yemwe anakhala nyumba yapafupi. Zimenezi zinakwiyitsa mwamuna wa mayiyo kwambiri.

Koma pali chinthu chimodzi chimene Marius sankamvetsa. Iye sankadziwa kuti anapululumuka bwanji kunkhondo kuja. Kenako anayamba kuganizira za Enjolras

komanso Éponine, komanso ankadabwa kuti bambo a Co-ssette ankadzatanani kumene kunkamenyedwa nk'hondo kuja. Iye sankamvetsa chifukwa chake aliyense sankafuna kumuuzza mmene anapululumukira. Chomwe ankadziwa ndi choti anthu enaake anabwera naye pagaleta. Chosangalatsako n'chakuti agogo akewo anali atayamba kumukonda kwambiri tsopano, komabe sanaiwale zimene anawachitira bambo ake, omwe anamwalira ngati chitsiru ali okha-okha komanso alibe kalikonse. Komabe ngati pali munthu amene sankachoka m'maganizo mwake, ndiye anali Co-ssette. Vuto lomwe linalipo linali loti sankadziwa kuti angakumane naye bwanji.

“Pali nk'hani inayake imene ndikufuna ndikuuzeni,” anatero Marius kwa agogo ake aja.

“Nk'hani yotani?”

“Ndikufuna kukwatira.”

“Palibe vuto,” anatero agogo akewo akuseka.

“Mukutanthauza chiyani ponena kuti palibe vuto?”

“Ndikutanthauza kuti ndagwirizana nazo, ukhoza kukwatira.”

“Sindikumvetsa, mwati bwanji?” anafunsa Marius podabwa ndi zimene zinkatuluka pakamwa pa agogo akewo.

“Ndati ukhoza kukwatira,” anabwerezano agogo aja. “Mtsikana ukufuna kukwatirana nayeyo amabwera kuno tsiku lililonse atavala ngati bambo wokalamba ndipo amafunsa kuti ukupeza bwanji. Pa nthawi imene umadwala kwambiri ija, nthawi zonse ankabwera kuno ndipo ankangokhalira kulira kwinaku akukumanga mabala ako. Ndamudziwa bwino mtsikanayo tsopano. Amakhala nyumba Na. 7, ku rue de l'Homme-Armé. Waona, sikutitu ndine munthu wouma mtima ngati mmene umaganizira. Ndapeza zoti ndi mtsikana wokongola kwambiri komanso

kuti amakukonda zedi. Ndikudziwa kuti unandikwiyira chifukwa cha zimene zinachitika zija. Kwa nthawi yonsezi ndakhala ndikuganiza kuti, ‘Kodi ndichite chiyani kuti mwana ameneyu ayambirensa kundikonda?’ Kenako ndinaganiza kuti, ‘Bwanji ndingomupatsa Cossette.’ Ndinkafuna kumuitana kuti adzakuone, koma dokotala amene amakusamalirayu ananena kuti ndidikire kaye kuti upeze bwino. Choncho mwana wanga, ndikufuna kukulimbikitsa kuti uzidya kwambiri n’cholinga choti mphamvu zako zibwerere mwamsanga. Kenako ukhoza kudzakumananso ndi mtsikana wako. Ukangotero ndiye kuti ukhoza kukwatira Cossette n’kumakhala mosangalala.”

Atanena zimenezi M. Gillenormand anayamba kulira. Anakumbatira Marius ndipo nayenso anayamba kulira.

“Agogo,” anatero Marius pamapeto pake. “Panopa ndili bwino tsopano. Ndikhoza kukumana naye bwinobwino.”

“Umuona mawa.”

“Bwanji osamuitana lerolo?”

“Chabwino. Ndipita kukamutenga lero lomwe. Ndamva ukundiitana kuti ‘agogo.’ Pamenepa wasonyeza kuti umandiganizira kwambiri. Choncho mphoto yomwe nditakupatse ikhala kukakutengera mtsikana wakoyo n’kukubweretsera.”

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Chakumasana tsiku lomwelo, Cossette anafika kunyumba kwa M. Gillenormand. Pambali pake panali bambo wachikulire yemwe ankamwetulira mwamantha.

M. Gillenormand anawalondolera m’chipinda chapamwamba komwe Marius anakhala podikirira kubwera

kwa bwenzi lakelo. Cossette anaima m'kolido ali ndi chimwemwe chodzaza tsaya. Iye ankafuna kungodziponya m'manja mwa Marius n'kumukumbatira mwamphamvu, koma analemphera kuchita zimenezi chifukwa ankaopa kusonyezeratu pagulu kuti amakukonda kwambiri mnyamatayo.

“Monsieur,” M. Gillenormand anatero kwa Jean Valjean. “M'malo mwa chidzukululu changa, Marius Pontmercy, ndikufuna kukupemphani chilolezo chanu kuti mwana wanu wamkaziyu akwatirane ndi chidzukululu changa, Marius.”

Jean Valjean anaweramitsa mutu wake.

“Tathokoza kwambiri kuti mwagwirizana nazo,” anatero M. Gillenormand akutembenukira kwa Marius ndi Cossette, kenako anati, “Ana anga, tsopano muli ndi ufulu kulowa m'banja.”

Ndiye atatsala okhaokha, Cossette ndi Marius anakumbatirana n'kuyamba kukisana.

“Koma ndi iweyodi?” anatero Cossette chapansi-pansi. “Sindikukhulupirira kuti takumananso. Ndasangalala kwambiri kukuona. Nditamva akundiuzwa kuti ndibwere kuno, mtima wanga unayamba kudumphadumphwa ndi chisangalalo moti ndinaiwaliratu kusintha zovala. Ndikunena izi chifukwa mwina ungadabwe kuti sindikuoneka bwino kwenikweni. Koma nanga n'chifukwa chiyani sukunena chilichonse? N'chifukwa chiyani ukundisiya kuti ndizingoyankhula ndekha? Kodi umandikondabe? . . .”

“Bwenzi langa . . .” anatero Marius.

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Ukwati unakonzedwa kuti udzachitike mu February chaka chotsatira. Jean Valjean ndi amene anakonza zonse. Pope-

za m'mbuyomo anali meya, iye ankadziwa zochita ndi nkhani yovuta kwambiri: nkhani yokhudza makolo a Cossette. Choncho anayamba kuuza aliyense kuti Cossette si mwana wake. Ankati anangomulera. Ankawauzanso dzina lachinyengo la makolo a Cossette moti aliyense anakhulupirira kuti Cossette ndi mwana wamasiye. Pamene tsiku la ukwati linkayandikira, Valjean anapatsa Cossette ndalama zochuluka zedi zokwana 500,000 francs, koma sanamuuze kuti ndalamazo wapereka ndi iyeyo. Anamuuzza kuti zachokera kwa munthu wina yemwe sakufuna kutchulidwa dzina. Ndiye zinakonzedwa kuti Marius ndi Cossette, omwe pofika pano sankakhulupirira zoti ukwati wawo ukuthekadi, azidzakhala kunyumba kwa a Gillenormand akadzakwatirana.

Cossette ankaperekezedwa ndi Valjean akamacheza kwa Marius tsiku lililonse. Marius sankayankhula kwenikweni ndi Valjean. Nthawi zina ankatha kucheza ndithu, koma nthawi zambiri ankadabwa kwambiri ndi bambo wachikulireyo. Iye sankakhulupirira kuti munthu ameneyu ndi amene anamuona kumene kunkamenyedwa nkondo kuja miyezi yapitayo moti akamamuona, ankakumbukira zinthu zambiri zosasangalatsa zomwe zinachitika kunkhondo kuja.

Komabe sanaike maganizo ake pa nkhani imeneyi chifukwa panali zambiri zoti aziganizire. Kuwonjezera pa kukonzekera ukwati wake, panali anthu awiri omwe ankafunitsitsa atawasakasaka n'kuwapeza. Oyamba anali a Thénardier.

Iye ankadziwa kuti a Thénardier ndi munthu woipa, komabe popeza anali atalonjeza bambo ake kuti akadzangowapeza adzawathandiza mmene angathere, ankaona kuti sangachitire mwina. Choncho anapeza anthu kuti amugwirire ntchito yosakasaka a Thénardier koma anale-

phera. Chinthu chokhacho chomwe anapeza chokhudza munthuyu chinali choti mkazi wake, Mme Thénardier, anali atamwalira komanso kuti iwowo anathawa kundende n’kutenga mwana wawo yemwe anatsala, Azelma, n’kuthawira kosadziwika.

Chachiwiri, Marius ankafufuzanso munthu wina wosadziwika yemwe anapulumutsa moyo wake kunkhondo kuja. Zoyesayesa zonse zomwe anachita pofufuza munthu ameneyunso sizinaphule kanthu ndipo choonadi chenicheni cha mmene anapulumukira sichinadziwike.

Ndiye madzulo a tsiku lina, pamene Marius ankacheza ndi Cossette ndi Jean Valjean zokhudza kulephera kwake kupeza anthu awiriwa, anakwiya kwambiri ndi zimene Valjean ankachita. Iye sankasonyeza chidwi ndi nkhaniyo ngakhale pang’ono.

“Munthu ameneyo ndi mwamuna ndipo anapulumutsa moyo wanga,” anatero Marius. “Kodi mukudziwa Monsieur, munthu ameneyutu ndi wanzeru kwambiri. Iye anandipulumutsa kuchokera pakati pa nkondo n’kundi nyamula kulowa nane m’ngalande zodutsa nyansi za pansi pa mzinda wa Paris. Anaika moyo wake pangozi chifukwa cha ine, munthu yemwe ndinali nditavulala kwambiri moti panalibenso chiyembekezo choti ndingapulumuke. Koma mukudziwa? Munthu ameneyotu sikuti ankandidziwa ngakhale pang’ono, anali mlendo kwa ine. Anachita zime-nezi osafuna kupindulapo kanthu. O-o, ndikanakonda ndalama za Cossette zikanakhala zanga!”

“Ndalamazotu ndi za nonse,” Valjean anamukumbutsa.

“Ndikanazigwiritsa ntchito kumufufuza munthu ameneyu mpaka nditamupeza,” anatero Marius.

Jean Valjean sananenenso kanthu.

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Cossette ndi Marius anakwatirana ndipo ankakhalana osati pang'ono. Mavuto onse omwe anakumana nawo m'mbuyomo anali atafufutika m'mitu mwawo moti anakisana ngati kulibe mawa pamene abusa ankadalitsa ukwati wawo m'tchalitchi. Agogo a Marius, M. Gillenormand komanso Jean Valjean ankangoyang'ana ana awowo mwachidwi. Limeneli linali tsiku losangalatsa kwambiri kwa Cossette. Ndi chinthu chimodzi chokha chokhumudwitsa chomwe chinachitika patsikuli. Chinthu chake ndi choti, Valjean, munthu yemwe ankamuonabe ngati bambo ake, anachoka phwando la ukwati lisanayambike n'kubwerera kunyumba kwawo ndipo ankati wachita zimenezi chifukwa sakumva bwino m'thupi. Koma sikuti zimenezi zinalandiratu chimwemwe chake. Anali ndi Marius tsopano ndipo ankayembekezera kumakhala naye mosangalala mpaka kalekale.

Jean Valjean, atafika kunyumba, anayatsa kandulo n'kupita kuchipinda kwake kukagona. Usiku umenewo tulo sanatione. Iye ankangoganizira za Cossette. Ankakumbukira Cossette ali mwana pamene anamutenga kunyumba kwa a Thénardier omwe ankamuzunza koopsa zaka 10 zapitazo. Iye anakhumudwa kwambiri ataganizira kuti tsopano sakhalanso munthu wofunika kambiri kwa Cossette. Munthu wina wochokera kosadziwika anali atamulanda mwayi umenewo. Komabe iye ankasangalala kuti wachita zonse zomwe akanatha kuti Cossette asangalale.

Komabe pali chinthu chinanso chomwe chinkamuwawa mumtima: mfundo yakuti palibe aliyense, ngakhale Cossette, yemwe ankadziwa zoona zenizeni zokhudza iye-yo. Palibe ankadziwa zoti iyeyo ndi Jean Valjean, chigawenga choopsa chomwe chinakhala m'ndende kwa zaka

19, chomwenso chinaba zoikapo makandulo zasiliva kuchokera kwa bishopu wachifundo. Iye ankadziwa kuti ngati atauza Cossette ndi Marius choonadi chimenechi, ndiye kuti asiya kumukonda komanso kumulemekeza. Koma kumbali inayi, ankaonanso kuti ngati atapitiriza kubisa mbiri yake, ndiye kuti afika podwala ndi nkhwawa. Valjean anagwira njakata.

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Ulendo wotsatira umene Valjean anakacheza kwa M. Gillenormand, anapempha kuti acheze pa awiri ndi Marius. Marius anakumbatira Valjean mwachikondi, ndipo ankamutichula kuti ‘bambo,’ moti anamuitana kuti akadyere limodzi nkhomaliro. Koma Valjean anapukusa mutu n’kumena kuti, “Monsieur, pali nkhwani inayake yomwe ndikufuna kukuuza.”

Marius anamvetsera mwatcheru pamene Valjean ankamutambasulira mbiri yake yonse. Kenako, akuoneka kuti wasokonezeka ndi zomwe anamva, Marius anati, “N’chifukwa chiyani mwandifotokozera zonsezi? Palibetu munthu amene anakukakamizani.”

“Ngati ndikanapitiriza kusunga nkhwani imeneyi mumtima, ndiye kuti ndikanafa ndi nkhwawa,” anayankha Valjean. “Komanso, sikuti ndili ndi m’bale wanga aliye-nse. Cossette ndi amene anali ngati wachibale wanga yekhayo yemwe ndinali naye. Choncho zonse zinatheratu pamene munakwatirana dzulo lija. Tsopano akusangalala ndi mwamuna yemwe amamukonda. Ndimayesa kudziiza kuti ndisauze munthu nkhwani yokhudza kale langa, koma palibe chomwe ndaphulapo. Ndinalephra kuwatseka pakamwa mawu omwe amanditsutsa ndikakhala kwandekha.”

Kenako onse anakhala phe-e kwa mphindi zingapo. Kenako Marius anati, “Koma Cossette ali ndi tsoka kwambiri. Akamva nkhani imeneyi . . .”

“Koma undilonjeze kuti suyerekeza ngakhale pang’ono kumuza!” anamudula mawu Valjean. “Akhoza kukhumudwa kwambiri akamva nkhani imeneyi. Ngati zimenezi zitachitika, nanenso ndikhoza kufa ndi nkawa.”

Valjean anakhala pampando n’kugwira mutu wake.

“Musadandaule,” anatero Marius. “Sindimuza. Nkhani imeneyi ikhala chinsinsi pakati pa inu ndi ine. Koma ndikuona kuti mungachite bwino kusiya kubwera kudzamuona.”

“Zimenezo n’zomveka ndithu,” anatero Valjean akuimirira kuti azipita. Atayenda pang’ono n’kufika pakhomo, anatembenuka n’kunena kuti, “Monsieur, ngati mungandilole, ndingakondebe kuti ndizibwera kumadzamuona. Sindizibwera kawirikawiri komanso sitizitenga nthawi yaitali. Tikhoza kumakumana m’kachipinda kakan’g’ono kali pansi kaja. Chonde Monsieur, ndikuona kuti ngati nditasiya kuonana ndi Cossette ndiye kuti moyo wanga ukhala wopanda tanthauzo. Komanso ngati nditasiya kubwera kuno, anthu ayamba kukaikira n’kuyamba kufalitsa mabodza okhudza . . .”

“Mukhoza kumabwera madzulo alionse,” anatero Marius.

“Monsieur, ndathokoza kwambiri chifukwa chondichitira chifundo,” anatero Jean Valjean akugwirana chanza ndi Marius. Kenako ananyamuka n’kumapita.

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Marius anasungadi lonjezo lake ndipo sanafotokoze chilionse kwa Cossette. Komanso Valjean ankabweradi madzulo alionse m'chipinda chaching'ono chija. Chipindachi chinali chozizira komanso chachinyezi, komabe moto unakolezedwa ndipo mipando iwiri inaikidwa pafupi ndi motowo. Poyamba, Cossette sankamvetsa chifukwa chake Valjean anakana kukacheza naye pamalo ochezera alendo omwe anali pansanjika yapamwamba. Ndiyeno pamen Valjean anakana kuti amukise patsaya, Cossette anyamba kukhala wosasangalala, moti ankaganiza kuti wachita chinachake chomwe chakhumudwitsa Valjean. Kenako anagwira dzanja la bambo ake omulerawo mwamphamvu n'kulikisa.

“Chonde musatero, ndikhululukireni ngati ndakulakwirani!” anatero Cossette. “Ndikufuna kuti mubwere tizikhalira limodzi. Inuyo mudzakhalabe bambo anga ndipo sindingakutayeni ngakhale pang'ono.”

Kenako anasiya dzanja lija.

“Iweyo usamandiitanenso kuti ‘bambo,’ kuyambira lero,” anatero Valjean. “Ukhoza kumandiitana kuti ‘Monsieur Jean.’”

“Komatu zimenezi si zoona,” anatero Cossette atakwiya. “Zimenezi zandikhumudwitsa kwambiri ndipo sindikudziwa kuti n'chifukwa chiyani mukundichitira nkhanza zotere.”

“Panopa sukufunikiranso bambo chifukwa tsopano uli ndi mwamuna.”

“Koma ndiye mwayamba kuyankhulatu!” anatero Cossette. “Kodi mwandikwiyira chifukwa choti ndayamba kukhala wosangalala?”

“Cossette,” anatero Valjean, “Ngati pali chinthu chimene chimakondweretsa mtima wanga ndiye ndi kukuona iweyo ukukhala mosangalala. Panopa zinthu zikukuyendera bwino, choncho ntchito yanganso yokulera yathera pamenepa.”

Atangonena mawu amenewa, anatola chipewa chake n’kuona msanawanjira.

Jean Valjean anapitirizabe kubwera kudzacheza, koma ubwenzi wake ndi Cossette unayamba kulowa pansi. Cossette anasiya kumutchula kuti “bambo” kapena kumufunsa mafunso. Atangokhala “Monsieur Jean” anasinthiratu n’kumangokhala ngati munthu wadera ndipo anasiya kudalira Valjean kuti akhale wosangalala.

Valjean ankati akabwera ankakhala pampando n’kumayang’ana Cossette osanena kanthu. Nthawi zina ankatha kuyamba kukamba zinthu zina zomwe zinawachitikira m’mbuyomo. Madzulo a tsiku lina mu April, Valjean anabwera pa nthawi imene ankafika koma anauzidwa ndi wantchito kuti Cossette wapita kukayenda ndi mwamuna wake. Iye anakhala pansi n’kumadikirira m’chipinda chaching’ono chija. Ataona kuti nthawi ikupita, ananyamuka n’kubwerera kwawo. Masiku angapo otsatira, ankati akabwera, macheza awo ankakhala achidule kwambiri chifukwa antchito aja ankabwera n’kumuuza kuti aika chakudya patebulo.

Kenako anayamba kupeza moto uja usanakolezedwe ndipo antchito aja anayamba kumangosiya mipando ija pakhomo. Kenako ndi mipando yomwe ija inasiyanso

kubwera moti Valjean ndi Cossette ankafunika kucheza ali chiimirire kunja kukuzizira. Valjean anazindikira kuti salinso wolandiridwa. Zikuoneka kuti Marius ankauza antchito aja kuti asiye kuwachitira zinthu zina kuti Valjean asiye yekha kubwera kunyumbaku. Tsiku limenelo ana-bwerera kwawo mtima ukumuwawa kwambiri moti kenako sanabwerenso.

Cossette anadabwa ndi zimenezi moti anatuma wantchito wake kuti apite kwa Valjean kuti akaone ngati zonse zili bwino. Valjean anauza wantchitoyo kuti ali bwino, kungoti anapita kukachita zinthu zina zokhudza bizinesi yake. Kungochokera tsiku limenelo, Valjean sanapitenso kukaona Cossette. Nayenso Cossette anali atayamba kutanganidwa kwambiri ndi moyo wa banja moti anaiwaliratu za Valjean. Iye sanazindikire kuti madzulo alionse, Valjean ankachoka kwawo n'kumayenda pang'onopang'ono kubwera ndipo akangofika pafupi ndi nyumbayi n'kuima penapake n'kumasuzumira misozi ikutsika pankhope pake. Kenako ankabwerera kwawo nkhope itagwa.

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Marius ankaona kuti zingakhale bwino kuti Valjean asiye kuonana ndi Cossette ndipo anakwanitsa kuchita zimenezi mochenjera kwambiri. Marius ankadziwa mbiri yonse ya Valjean. Ankadziwanso kuti Valjean ndi amene anapha Insipekita Javert chifukwa anaona pamene ankapita naye kukamupha pa nthawi imene anali kumene kunkamenyedwa nkhondo kuja. Pamene ankapitirizabe kufufuza mwachinsinsi zokhudza kale la mkuluyu, anapeza zinthu zinanso zonyansa kwambiri. Iye anamva zoti ndalama zonse zomwe Valjean anali nazo, zinali za Monsieur Madeleine,

munthu wina wachuma yemwe ankapanga magalasi ku Montreuil. Anapeza kuti munthu ameneyu anangosowa mosadziwika bwino. Choncho anayamba kulimbikitsa Cossette kuti asagwiritse ntchito ndalama zomwe bambo omulerawo anamupatsa, koma kuti azigwiritsa ntchito ndalama zomwe ankapeza pa ntchito yomwe ankagwira ya uloya. Cossette sanasangalale ndi zimenezi. Iye sankamvetsanso chifukwa chake bambo ake, monga mmene ankamuonerabe Valjean, anasiya kubwera kudzamuona. Mumtima mwake ankawakondabe bambo akewo. Koma be anakonda mwamuna wake kwambiri kuposa aliyense, moti posakhalitsa anayamba kuzolowera kukhala popanda kuonana ndi munthu wachikulireyo.

Madzulo atsiku lina, wantchito anabweretsa kalata kwa Marius ndipo kenako anati: “Munthu amene walembe kalatayi akukudikirirani pamalo ofikira alendo.”

Fungo la chingambwe komanso malembedwe a emvelopu yakalatayo sanali achilendo kwenikweni kwa iye moti posakhalitsa anakumbukira za a Jondrette. Mofulumira anatsegula emvelopuyo n’kuwerenga kalatayo. M’munsi mwa kalatayo analembamo siginecha yakuti, “Thenard.⁵¹” Munthuyo ankapempha chithandizo cha ndalama. Marius sanakhulupirire kuona kuti munthu amene ankamusakasaka kwa nthawi yaitali, yemwe anapulumutsa moyo wa bambo ake kunkhondo ya ku Waterloo, anali atabwera yekha kunyumba kwake. Nthawi yomweyo anauza wantchito uja kuti auze munthuyo kuti alowe.

Koma Marius anadzidzimuka ataona munthu yemwe analowa m’nyumbamo. Iye sanamuzindikire ngakhale pang’ono. Anali munthu wachikulire wamphuno ya ikulu kwambiri ndipo anavala magalasi komanso anali ndi tsitsi la imvi lopesa bwino. Analinso atavala zovala zooneka bwino, ndiponso tcheni cha wotchi yagolide pamko-

no chinkalendewera pathumba la jekete yake.

“Mukufuna ndikuthandizeni bwanji bambo?” anafunsa Marius ndipo mlendoyo anawerama posonyeza ulemu.

Kenako anayamba kufotokoza mwatsatanetsatane mbiri yake. Iye ananena kuti poyamba anali kazembe wa boma m’mayiko ena ndipo tsopano anali atapuma pantchito. Iye ankati akufuna kusamukira ku South America limodzi ndi mkazi komanso mwana wake. Koma chifukwa choti ulendowo unali wautali kwambiri, analibe ndalama zokwanira moti n’chifukwa chake anabwera kudzapempha chithandizo.

“Ndiye zimenezo zindikhudze ine?”

“Kodi simunawerenge kalata imene ndakulemberani ija?”

Marius anawerenga kalata ija mofulumira kwambiri moti sankakumbukira zimene zinali m’kalatayo choncho anati, “Pitirizani kuyankhula.”

“Pali nkhani ina yachinsinsi imene ndimafuna ku kuuzani, M. Pontmercy,” anatero mlendoyo. “Mbali yoyamba ya nkhamiyi ndikuuzani ulere. Koma inayo mundilipira. Ndikuganiza kuti nkhami imeneyi ikudzidzimutsani kwambiri.”

“Owo-o!”

“Munthu amene inuyo mumaganiza kuti ndi bambo omwe analera mkazi wanu uja anapha munthu komanso ndi wakuba. Dzina lake lenileni ndi Jean Valjean.”

“Ndikudziwa zimenezo.”

“Kodi mumadziwa zoti anakhala m’ndende kwa zaka 19?”

“Inde, ndikudziwanso zimenezo.”

Mlendoyo anadabwa ndi zimenezi moti anayamba kuchita manyazi poona kuti Marius sakutekeseka ndi zi-

mene ankamuuzazo. Koma kenako anamwetulira.

“Ndili ndi zambiri zoti ndikuuzeni makamaka zokhudza ndalama zimene mkazi wanu anapatsidwa. Chime-nechi ndi chinsinsi chofunika kwambiri moti ndikhoza kukuuzani ngati mutandipatsa 20,000 francs.”

“Chinsinsi chimenechonso ndikuchidziwa kale,” anatero Marius.

“Chabwino ndikuchotserani, ndipatseni 10,000 francs?”

“Mwina ndibwerezenso, ndanena kuti zonsezo ndikuzidziwa kale!”

“Komatu ndikufunika ndalama zoti ndikagulire chakudya, Monsieur!” anatero mlendoyo ataona kuti sizimuyendera. “Ndikhoza kukuuzani chinsinsi chimenechi mutangondipatsa 20 francs basi.”

“Ndiwonongerengi ndalama zanga kulipira zinthu zomwe ndikuzidziwa kale?” anatero Marius. “Musavutike bambo, zonse ndikuzidziwa kale. Ndikudziwanso dzina lanu lenileni. Ndinu a Thénardier, si choncho?”

Mlendoyo anaseka kwambiri, koma Marius anapitirizabe kuyankhula. “M’mbuyomu munkadziwikanso ndi dzina lakuti a Jondrette ndipo nthawi inayake munali ndi malo ogona alendo ku Montfermeil.”

“Zimenezo sindikuzidziwa ine!” anakana mlendoyo kwam’tuwagalu.

“Ndinu munthu woipa kwabasi, komabe ndikupatsani kangachepe.”

Marius anatulutsa ndalama m’thumba mwake m’kumuponyera mlendoyo.

“Zikomo kwambiri M. Pontmercy!” anatero munthuyo akuyang’ana ndalamayo. “500 francs! Mwatiponyatu patsogolo pamenepa. Mwatithandiza kupeza yogulira mchere.”

Atangonena mawu amenewo, anachotsa mphuno yake yachinyengo ija komanso magalasi ake ndi wigi yomwe anavala kumutu kwake.

“Zonse zimene mwanena zija ndi zoona,” anatero mlendoyo ndipo mawu ake analinso atasintha kotheratu. “Dzina langadi ndi Thénardier.”

Kenako anadikira kwa kanthawi ndithu kuti aone zimene Marius achite.

Atangoona munthu weniweniyo, mtima wa Marius unatsika chifukwa anali atapezanso mwayi woti athandize Thénardier ndipo iye ankaona kuti akukwatiritsa lonjezo lomwe anachita ndi bambo ake. Komabe, kubweranso kwa Thénardier kunamupatsanso mwayi wina. Kunamuthandiza kudziwa kumene kunachokera ndalama zomwe Co-ssette anapatsidwa.

“A Thénardier,” anatero Marius, “Ndikufuna ndikufotokozereni chinsinsi chimene mumafuna kundigulitsa chija. Nanenso ndinapeza anthu oti andifufuzire zokhudza munthu amene uja moti ndikudziwa zambiri kuposa zimene inuyo mukudziwa. Jean Valjean, monga mwanenera kale, anapha munthu komanso ndi wakuba. Ndi wakuba chifukwa anachita chifwamba munthu wina wolemba yemwe ankapanga magalasi, yemwe anali meya ku Montreuil, dzina lake M. Madeleine. Jean Valjean, yemwe ankadziwa mbiri ya meyayo, anakamunenera kwa apolisi ndipo atamangidwa, anaba ndalama zokwana 500,000 kuchokera kubanki ya munthuyo. Munthu amene amagwira ntchito kubankiyo ndi amene anandiuza zimenezi. Komanso anapha wapolisi wina dzina lake Javert. Ndikunena zimenezi chifukwa ndinalipo pamene ankachita zimenezi.”

“Monsieur, ndikufuna kukuuzani kuti mukulakwitsa kwambiri,” anatero Thénardier.

“Mwati bwanji? Kuteroko mukutsutsa zimene ndanenazi? Zimenezitu ndiye zoona zenizeni!” anatero Marius.

“Ayi ndithu, ndi zabodza, ndipo ndikunena izi chifukwa ine sindisangalala ndikamva munthu wosalakwa akuimbidwa mlandu pa zinthu zimene sanachite. Jean Valjean sanabe ndalama za M. Madeleine, komanso sanamphe Javert.”

“Mwadziwa bwanji zimenezo?”

“Choyamba, sanabere M. Madeleine chifukwa *iye* yo ndi amene anali M. Madeleine! Ndipo chachiwiri, sanamphe Javert chifukwa Javert anadzipha atalumpha pamlatho n’kumira mumtsinje.”

“Muli ndi umboni wa zimene mukunenazi?” anafunsa Marius maso ake atatuluka m’zikope posakhulupirira zomwe ankamvazo.

“Umboni wonse ndili nawo pompano,” anatero Thénardier akutulutsa emvelopu ina momwe munali zikalata zingapo komanso zidutswa za nyuzipepala. “Ndakhalala ndikufufuza mbiri ya Jean Valjean kwa nthawi yaitali.”

Marius anatenga zikalata zija n’kuyamba kuwereenga ndipo kenako anayang’ana Thénardier akumwetulira. “Koma ndiye ndi munthu wogometsatu. Kuteroko ndalama zonse zija ndi zakedi! Komanso sikuti anapha munthu n’kumubera ndalama. Ameneyutu ndi munthu wokhulupirika komanso wabwino kwambiri ngati mngelo!”

“Komabe musapupulume kumutamanda choncho. Tsopano imvani zoona zake zenizeni zokhudza munthu ameneyu. Valjean ndi munthu wakuba komanso anapha munthu,” anatero Thénardier chapansipansi.

“Mukutanthauzanso chiyani, si mumanditsutsa posachedwapa zokhudza nkhani yomweyi?”

“Ndakuuzani kale kuti sindisangalala kumango-

mvetsera munthu akuweruzidwa mopanda chilungamo. Komanso ndimafuna kuti munthu woipa azipatsidwa chilango malinga ndi tchimo limene wapalamula.”

“Ndiye anapalamula chiyani?”

Thénardier anakhala pansi n’kuyamba kufotokoze-ra Marius zokhudza nthawi imene anathandiza Valjean kuthawa kuchokera m’ngalande zodutsa zonyansa za pansi pa mzinda wa Paris.

“Ndinakumana naye atanyamula munthu wakufa yemwe anamupha n’kumubera ndalama,” anatero Thénardier. “Ndili ndi kansanza ka chovala cha munthu amene anaphedwayo monga umboni wa zimene ndikunenazi.”

Kenako anatulutsa kachidutswa ka chovala n’kumuonetsa Marius yemwe anadzidzimuka kwambiri n’kudzuka pamene anakhala ngati anakhalira khala lamoto. Thénardier anapitirizabe kuyankhula ndipo Marius anatsegula kabati n’kutulutsamo chovala.

“Munthu amene mukunenayotu ndi *ineyo!*” anatero Marius. “Ndipo chovala chomwe munadula kachidutswa kameneka ndi ichi! Ndi chimene ndinavala tsiku limenelo.”

Thénardier anayang’ana chovalacho komanso kachidutswa komwe kanali m’dzanja lake ndipo anangoti kukamwa yasa-a nkhope yake ikuoneka yamantha. Thénardier anapitirizabe kudabwiradabwira pamene Marius anathamangira kwa iye n’kumufumbatitsa masauzande angapo.

“Inuyo a Thénardier ndinu munthu woipa kwambiri,” anatero Marius. “Ndinu munthu wakuba komanso wabodza. Munabwera kuno kuti mudzawononge mbiri ya munthu yemwe mwakhala mukumukhumba kwa nthawi yaitali. Koma mwangochititsa kuti munthuyo alemekezeke. Zikanakhala kuti simunapululumutse bambo anga ku

Waterloo, ndikanapita kukakunenerani kupolisi. Ndiku-dziwa kuti mkazi wanu anamwalira, koma tengani nda-lamazi ndipo mupite ku America ndi mwana wanu kuti mukayambe moyo wina kumeneko. Mukakafika kume-neko, ndidzakutumiziraninso ndalama ina yokwana 20,000 francs. Panopa nyamukani mudzipita. Sindikufuna kudzaonanso nkhope yanu!”

A Thénardier anachoka asakukhulupirira kuti apa-tsidwa ndalama zonsezo ndipo Marius anathamangira kwa Cossette n’kukamufotokozera zonse.

“Tiyeko tinyamuke pompano tipite kunyumba kwa-wo,” anatero Marius. “Bambo ako ndi amene anapulu-mutsa moyo wanga. Tiyeko msanga tisachedwe.”

Patangodutsa mphindi zingapo, Marius ndi Cossette omwe anakwera galeta anatulukira panyumba ya Na. 7, ku rue de l’Homme-Armé.

* * *

Jean Valjean anangomva kugogoda pakhomo la nyumba yake ndipo ndi mawu ofooka ananena kuti, “Lowani.”

Chitseko chinatseguka ndipo Marius ndi Cossette analowa. Cossette anathamangira pamene Jean Valjean anakhala.

“Bambo!” anatero Cossette akuwakumbatira ba-mbo akewo.

“Kuteroko wandikhululukira tsopano?” anatero Je-an Valjean chapansipansi akukumbatirana ndi Cossette, kenako anatembenukira kwa Marius.

“Cossette, wamva zimene bambo akowa anena?” anatero Marius misozi yodzimvera chisoni ikutsika m’ma-saya mwake. “Andipempha kuti *ndiwakhululukire*. Koma ukudziwa zimene anandichitira? Anapulumutsa moyo wa-

nga ndipo ndi amene anathandiza kuti ndikumanenso ndi iwe. Anabwera pamalo ankhondo kuti adzandipulumutse, mofanananso ndi mmene anapulumutsira Javert. Anandibereka kumsana kwawo n’kumayenda nane m’ngalande zodutsa zonyansa m’kati mwa nthaka ya Paris ndipo anandibweretsa kwa iwe. O-o, Cossette, ndikumva chisoni kwambiri ndi zimene ndinawachitira bambowa!”

“Usavutike ndi kutchula zonsezo mwana wanga,” anatero Valjean chapansipansi.

“Koma n’chifukwa chiyani simunanene nthawi yonse ija?” anafunsa Marius. “N’chifukwa chiyani simunandiuze zoti munali M. Madeleine komanso zoti simunaphe Javert tili kunkhondo kuja? Komanso n’chifukwa chiyani simunandiuze zoti munapulumutsa moyo wanga?”

“Ndimaona kuti ndingachite bwino kukusiyani kuti musangalale ndi moyo wanu. Ndikanakuuzani zoonza zenizeni, bwenzi mukundisamalira pofuna kundibwezera zabwino zomwe ndinakuchitirani, ine chigawenga chotha ntchito. Zimenezo sizikanandisangalatsa ngakhale pang’ono.”

“Sizikanakusangalatsani chifukwa chiyani?” anatero Marius. “Kuyambira lero, muzikakhala ndi ife kunyumba kwathu moti sitilolanso kuti muzikhala nokhanokha. Inuyo ndinu bambo athu ndipo tikutengani tikamachoka kuno. Sitilola kuti mugonenso kuno.”

“Ndipo ulendo uno sitivomvera ngakhale mukane,” anavomereza Cossette akukhala pamiyendo ya Valjean n’kumamukisa pachipumi. “Panjapa pali galeta yomwe ikutidikira. Ngati musakufuna tichita kukubani.”

Jean Valjean ankangomvetsera pamene Cossette ankafotokoza mmene chipinda chomwe azikakhala chimaonekera komanso zimene munthu ankatha kuona akamayang’ana pawindo la chipindacho. Anafotokoza za mu-

nda wamaluwa komanso kulira kosangalatsa kwa mbalame zomwe zinkalira m'mitengo yapafupi ndi chipindacho. Koma zikuoneka kuti Valjean ankangochita chidwi ndi kamvekedwe ka mawu a Cossette m'malo mwa tanthauzo la zimene ankanenazo. Kenako anati, "Inde, zingakhaleli zosangalatsa, komabe . . ."

Cossette yemwe ankachita mantha, anagwira manja a Valjean.

"Manja anuwa akuzizira kwambiri," anatero Cossette. "Kodi mukudwala? Kapena penapake pakupweteka."

"Ayi," anatero Valjean. "Sikuti ndikumva kupweteka paliponse, koma . . ."

"Koma chiyani?"

"Ndimwalira posachedwapa."

"Ayi musatero bambo!" analira Cossette. "Inutu mukhala ndi moyo! *Mukuyenera* kukhala ndi moyo, mwamva?"

Marius ndi Cossette anayesetsa kulimbikitsa Valjean, anayesetsa kumusonyeza kuti amamukonda kwambiri komanso kuti akufunititsa kuti akhalebe moyo. Anayesetsanso kumupatsa chikhumbo choti ayambe kufuna kukhala ndi moyo. Koma anachedwa. Valjean anamwetulira, maso ake akuwala ndi chikondi komanso chimwemwe. Koma mphamvu zake zinali zitayamba kuchepa.

"Kumwalira si kanthu," anatero chapansipansi. "Koma zimakhala zomvetsa chisoni kwambiri kukhala ndi moyo wopanda phindu woti ukatembenuka n'kumayang'ana kumene wachokera n'kumadzimvera chisoni."

Kenako anagwira mkono wa Cossette n'kuukisa, ndiyeno anati, "Bwarani pafupi ana anga, nonse awiri. Dziwani kuti ndimakukondani kwambiri. Ndikusangalala kuti ndikufa muli pafupi nane. Ndikudziwa kuti iweyo Cossette umandikonda kwambiri. Ndikudziwanso kuti

udandaula kwambiri ndikapita. Koma usadandaule kwa-mbiri. Sindikufuna kuti ukhale ndi chisoni chachikulu. Ukufunika kumakhala mosangalala. Ndikusiira zoikapo makandulo ziwiri izo, izo zili pafupi ndi bedi langalo. Ndikufuna kuti zikhale zako zimenezo Cossette. Zoikapo makandulozo zinapangidwa ndi siliva, koma kwa ineyo siliva ameneyo ndi golide weniweni. Sindikudziwa ngati munthu amene anandipatsa zinthu zimenezo akusangalala akamayang'ana padzikoli kuchokera kumwambako. Ndayesetsa kuchita zimene ndinamulonjeza. Koma musaiwale ana anga, kuti ngakhale ndinali ndi ndalama zambiri, ndine mmodzi mwa anthu osauka kwambiri.”

Pamene ankanena zimenezi, Valjean anayamba kupuma mobanika ndipo ankavutikanso kusuntha mikono yake. Pamene thupi lale linkafookerafookera, mzimu wake unayamba kukula mphamvu. Kuwala kwa dziko losadziwika kunali kutayamba kuonekera m'maso mwake.

“Cossette,” anatero akupuma mwapang'onopang'ono, “tsopano yakwana nthawi yoti ndikuuze dzina la mayi ako. Dzina lawo linali Fantine. Usadzaiwale dzina lime-neli. Mayi ako ankakukonda kwambiri ndipo anakumana ndi mavuto oopsa pamoyo wawo chifukwa cha iwe. Anakhala moyo wozunzika kwambiri ndipo mavuto amenekumana nawo pamoyo wawo anathandiza kuti moyo wako ukhale wosangalala kwambiri ngati mmene ukuchitira pano. Nthawi zina Mulungu amasankha kuti zinthu zikhale choncho. Amaona zonse zomwe timachita tikhala padziko lapansi pano ndipo amadziwa zimene zikuchitikira nyenyezi zonse zomwe zili kuthambo. Amadziwanso zomwe zimachitikira anthu padzikoli. Tsopano yafika nthawi yoti ndilekane nanu ana anga. Muzikondana kwambiri nthawi zonse. Palibenso chinthu china chofunika kwambiri padziko lapansi kuposa *chikondi*.”

Cossette ndi Marius anagwada pansi pambali pa Valjean, wina mbali iyi, wina inayi ndipo anali ndi chisoni chachikulu. Koma kenako anangozindikira kuti manja a Jean Valjean agwera pamutu pawo ndipo sanasunthenso. Valjean anafa atakhala pampando, mutu wake utayang'a-na kumwamba. Kuwala kwa makandulo omwe anali pazoi kapo makandulo zija kunkawalitsa nkhope yake yomwe inkaoneka yosangalala komanso yokhutira ndi moyo.

1. Kamvekedwe kake ndi Dinya.
2. Mawuwa amatanthauza bambo ndipo katchulidwe kake ndi Monsyu.
3. Madamozele Baputistini.
4. Madamu Magwaya.
5. Chidule cha Madamu.
6. Chidule cha Madamozele.
7. Katchulidwe kake ndi Zyoo Vazyoo
8. Mawu amenewa ndi amene amawagwiritsira ntchito poitana bishopu.
9. Peti-Zyaveyi.
10. Monfemeyi.
11. Tenadiye.
12. Fontini.
13. Montereyi.
14. Efurazi.
15. Kozeti.
16. Eponini
17. Azema.
18. Zyave.
19. Monsyu Madaleni.
20. Chidule cha Monsyu.
21. Tuloni.
22. Shomatiyu.
23. Ayi-loho-kilashi.
24. Arasi.
25. Sou ndi ndalama yaing'ono komanso yotsika mphamvu kwambiri yomwe Afalansa ankagwiritsa ntchito kale.
26. Wotalu-u.
27. Po-mesi.
28. Zyozyi.
29. Zyilunomo.
30. Napoliyoni.

31. Mariyasi.
32. Enzyora.
33. Lakisebeki.
34. Monsyu Leblo.
35. Madamozele Lanwa.
36. Eshula.
37. Ru-de-lwesti.
38. Madamu Bugoni.
39. Zyondreti.
40. Obani Fabwa.
41. Ru-dela-Vereli.
42. Lamaki.
43. Ru-de-Shanvreri.
44. Tchalosi.
45. Luwi-Filipi.
46. Korinto.
47. Ru-dele-la-Momwe.
48. Gavuroshi.
49. Tusayi.
50. ru-de Fi-du-Kaveya, ku Mareyi.
51. Tenadi.

Mukhoza kupeza mabuku ena kwaulere pa linki iyi: [Lula Pensulo](#)